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AUSTRALIAN

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SOCCER

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WEEKLY

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ROBBIE SLATER

TWO FOR THE ROAD

SOCCEEROO Graham Arnold turning out with NSW State League club Sutherland Shire and Robbie Slater back from Anderlecht and playing with Sydney Croatia, these are but two facets of an exciting developing scene in Australia.

Arnold's switch will be temporary.

Sydney Croatia is expected to give him guest player status to appear in the NSW State League winter competition.

The Quit NSL and the NSW Soccer Federation seem to be on a similar course to set up a combined winter league.

The NSL teams will be under 23 whilst the

NSW clubs will be opened aged.

It will be possible for the new NSL clubs to field up to four over-aged players in any game.

If the deal is consummated as expected, the State League clubs will play their own Challenge Cup round-robin, which will be followed by the new combined league in May.

Victoria is proceeding differently by organising a 12-team Super League separate from the four Melbourne-based NSL clubs.

Melbourne editor Greg Blake will be providing ASW readers with chapter and verse of the Victorian scheme.

If the NSW competition proves a success, then Victoria may later take a second look at

its position.

It will cost the NSW NSL clubs to enter and they will have to be sure that ground surfaces are preserved to carry the long match load.

The big benefits of the scheme extends through to the provision of better trained players for the Australian under 23 Olympic team.

Top clubs will be able to put more time into developing the careers of the prospective Olympians.

Robbie Slater is an entirely different case to Arnold.

CONTINUED ON
PAGE 3



GRAHAM ARNOLD

OPINION LINE

An overwhelming 72.8% of respondents to last week's FANS OPINION voted for Sunday games in this season's NSL and in so doing indicated the QUIT NSL is making a marketing mistake in not catering for the "Sunday" public.

This week's FANS OPINION follows the legendary Pele's prediction that hosts Italy will win next year's Italia '90 World Cup.

Fans agreeing with Pele can VOTE YES on 0055 20526

Fans disagreeing can VOTE NO on 0055 20527

—JOHN WARREN

WORLD CUP

Full draw,
comments —
Page 22



TAB NOT ON YET

BY ALAN CLARK

THE QUIT National Soccer League's hopes of introducing TAB betting on the game may be premature so far as South Australia is concerned.

A spokesman for the marketing department of the TAB in Adelaide said no formal approach has yet been made to introduce Soccer TAB in the State.

"It would be hard to say if such a scheme could be viable here," said the spokesman.

"We would have to do research on it. With Australian rules there are a few margins and options that do not occur in soccer.

"Interstate, they have the technology and research to look at any scheme so any developments obviously would have to start there and then we could have a look at them."

The QNSL has authorised its marketing arm, Corporate Sponsorship Services, to probe the possibility of introducing Soccer TAB throughout SA, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania.

TABs throughout Australia already operate on sporting events apart from racing, including the Sydney rugby league premiership, Aussie rules in SA and Victoria, the Tooheys 1000 motor race and the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Commitments galore

BY KEITH GILMOUR

WHILST the World Cup Italia '90 next June/July is becoming the focus of tremendous attention, Australia has other objectives in the world of football.

Eyes must be set on the possibility of reaching the finals of three other important world tournaments.

- The FIFA U17 World Championship — Ecuador, July 19/August 4 1991. (Players born after 1.8.74).

- The FIFA World Youth U20 Championship for the Coca-Cola Cup — Nigeria, July 19/August 4 1991. (Players born after 1.8.71).

- The Olympic Games Football Tournament — Barcelona, July 25/August 8, 1992 for U23 players, born after August 1, 1969.

According to national coach Frank Arok, there will be difficulties selecting a squad of Australian under 23 players of the necessary quality.

Said Arok: "Players who come to mind are Matthew Bingley, David Seal, Mark Babic, John Kakakios and Zoran Adioski.

"It is vital the players are as near the top end of the allowable age as possible."

Then, says Arok, examining the under 20 Youth players position reveals an even bigger problem.



MATTHEW BINGLEY (left) — in line for Olympic selection.

"17 or 18 of the top 30 are at the Australian Institute of Sport.

"So much would depend on the quality of work put in at the Institute.

"The last time we had a team based on the AIS we didn't get far enough."

So far as Arok is concerned, there is no chance that players much younger than the under 17 cut off point will be selected.

He says that recently players in one group gave away far too many months to their opponents.

"Something extra has to be done with youngsters," he contends.

"The state representative scheme just isn't enough. It isn't a case of just keeping the juniors happy.

"The U17 grade run by the juniors in NSW at present will have to be included with the senior clubs and may need to be U18.

"In any case, they (the clubs) have to invest in their own futures.

"The grades will have to be limited to six to ten teams.

"Players can't just train two or three sessions per week when six or seven are needed."

The players will have to be closely vetted for physical fitness, work capacity and skills.

Arok instanced the way in which young swimmers must meet their time requirements and the continual attention given to developing young golfers.

"Look at tennis, too," he said. "Are we working professionally with kids the way they do?"

"If we can't wake up we are stupid people.

"46 weeks training a year is needed if we want to compete with Europe.

"The beach boy, surfer and six months a year cricketer don't fit into the pattern.

"You can play for yourself, or alternatively you can aim to become a quality player," he added.

Players who qualify for Barcelona Olympic squad

POSITIONS	NAME	CLUB
Goalkeepers	Zeljko Kalac	(Syd Croatia)
	Joe Rados	(Melb-Croatia)
Defenders	John Cosentino	(Apia)
	Paul Okon	(Marconi)
	Frank Valentic	(Melb Croatia)
	Greg Dickinson	(Melita)
	George Slifkas	(Preston)
	Paul Donnelly	(South Melbourne)
	Jim Morakeas	(St George)
	George Alevizos	(Sunshine)
	Tony Popovic	(Syd Croatia)
	Louis Triantafyllou	(Syd Olympic)
	Jeff Allport	(Wollongong)
Midfielders	Mark Babic	(Syd Croatia)
	Milan Blagojevic	(Apia)
	John Gibson	(Blacktown)
	Stephane Gee	(Blacktown)
	Paul Welch	(Blacktown)
	John Kakakios	(St George)
	Eric Hristodoulou	(Syd Olympic)
	Craig Sharpley	(Syd Olympic)
	Mineo Bonetig	(Wollongong)
	Craig McGregor	(St George)
	Zoki Adioski	(St Melbourne)
Strikers	Peter Murray	(Apia)
	Zlatko Arambasic	(Blacktown)
	Peter Bennett	(Blacktown)
	Stan Suman	(Blacktown)
	John Markovski	(Melb Croatia)
	Paul Rago	(Melita)
	Con Boustionis	(Sth Melbourne)
	Damien Mori	(Sth Melbourne)
	Matthew Bingley	(St George)
	Zoran Ilic	(St George)
Utility	David Seal	(Syd Croatia)
	Jason Bennett	(Syd Olympic)
	Steve Refenes	(Syd Olympic)
	Anthony Franze	(Apia)
	Anthony Vidmar	(Ad City)

Other players who could be in contention are Carlo Talladira (Adelaide City), Steve Horvat (Melbourne Croatia), Louis Bekiaris (Preston), Robert Petrovski (Preston), Robert Spasevski (Preston), Athan Zacharias (Sunshine).

ASF CHAIRMAN'S DELIGHT

Letter to NSW
Amateur Soccer
Federation

75 Elimatta Drive,
Ashgrove Q. 4060

30th November, 1989.

Dear Cec,

Words can hardly express how delighted I was that your organisation saw fit to support our very important Project Development Fund for Australian Soccer Teams.

I was extremely grateful to your Chairman, John (Hedison), and to the members as they were prepared to listen to the arguments (even though I know many of them were mandated).

I think Australian Soccer needs more delegates like them with the courage to back projects, if we are ever going to succeed.

Will you please convey to John Hedison, all committee members and delegates my sincere thanks and that of the Australian Soccer Federation for their support of the proposal because I now believe that with the lead you have given others will follow.

Best wishes to yourself and family for the Festive Season.

Ian Brusasco A.M.,
Chairman,
Australian Soccer Federation



GEORGE JOLEVSKI

SORRY!

LAST week's Australian Soccer Weekly page 1 was branded Vol 10 No 407 Wednesday November 29, 1989 instead of No 408 of December 6, 1989.

We apologise for any inconvenience to our readers.

AUSTRALIAN

SOCCER

WEEKLY

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Wolves set to devour Melbourne Croatia

BY ALISTAIR RUSSELL

WOLLONGONG City should field the same side that the one which pushed Marconi last weekend when they play host to the undefeated Melbourne Croatia at Brandon Park on Sunday, kicking off at 7pm.

Player-coach David Ratcliffe is justifiably pleased with the Wolves' start to the new season and believes his side produced their best all-round performance against Marconi.

For the first time this season Wollongong will have a fully fit squad with Zivko Hristovski, Dave Roberts and Pat Brodnik all available.

New signing Jerry Murphy arrived last week but may need time to reach match fitness and is not likely to play.

Melbourne Croatia are the form team at the moment, sharing joint leadership with Sydney Olympic and scoring six in their last two matches as they remain unbeaten.

Joe Caleta should get the nod in front of Ivan Kelic following his two goals when coming on as substi-

tute against Adelaide Hellas last week and the Melbourne side still have Josip Biskic, Alan Davidson and Francis Awaritefe to return.

With the Wolves growing in confidence with each game and a good team spirit among the players, Ratcliffe is quietly confident of ending Melbourne Croatia's unbeaten run.

Melita coach Raul Blanco will have to bring his players back to earth following their first win back in the NSL for the big game against Marconi on Sunday.

Blanco will need

two-goal hero Greg Brown and Marshall Soper in form to take advantage of the Marconi defence while Craig Mason will have his work cut out to control the midfield against his old club.

While Marconi have scored 10 goals in their last two games, away from home their form recently has not been impressive.

Following their 'Houdini act' against Melbourne Croatia, Marconi narrowly beat bottom side Adelaide Hellas and were outplayed by an improving Wollongong.

Melita are yet to pick up a point at

home this season and against Marconi could be on the receiving end of another hiding depending on the mood of the champions.

Table-topping Sydney Olympic visit struggling Sydney Croatia on Saturday having won their last four matches in a row and boasting one of the best attacking records in the league.

Grant Lee is likely to miss the match after dislocating his shoulder against South Melbourne, his place in an otherwise unchanged team should go to last week's goalscoring hero Marko Perinovic.

Olympic striker



RANDELL EASTHORPE — can he regain his scoring touch for Wollongong against high-flying Melbourne Croatia this weekend?

difficult assignment to rally a side beaten by last placed Melita last weekend.

Blacktown have never beaten South Melbourne in the league and indeed have not won away from home this season.

South Melbourne still holds a 100% re-

touch with the two leaders by taking both points.

Sergio Melta will play his 300th NSL game for Ad City this weekend.

Two sides with the worst defensive records — St George and Adelaide Hellas — meet at St George Stadium on Friday, with the Saints looking for their first home win this season.

Adelaide Hellas, now firmly entrenched at the bottom of the table, have only beaten the Saints once in Sydney and are unlikely to change the trend this week.

Hellas, however, will be strengthened by the signing of New Zealand striker Billy Wright, from Victorian State League club Morwell Falcons.

St George coach Frank Arok knows only too well that a win against the cellar dwellers is paramount or his side will lose touch with the leading clubs.

After taking a point from the other Adelaide club last week, St George should win and move away from the bottom.

Sunshine and Preston meet in a local 'derby' on Sunday.

Both sides share six points and need to push on away from the "danger" zone.

Both sides bounced back with good results last weekend.

Ossie Latif led Apia on a merry dance and took a valuable point for Sunshine while Preston doubled their goal tally with two goals from former Victorian State League Player of the Year Martin Woodall in beating Sydney Croatia.

Preston are beginning to find the form expected as early finals favourites and should continue to improve their position as long as they can bottle up Latif and new star Dave Clarkson.

SPECIAL NSL PREVIEWS EACH WEEK IN ASW



Melita goalkeeper Alex McPherson is certain to again give a good account of himself against Marconi on Sunday.

CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 1

Part of his transfer deal from Sydney Croatia to Anderlecht in Belgium is that he would be allowed to return for a personal visit.

And that gives the Sydney club a chance to parade his skills as a guest.

A few clubs have been assessing Slater's talents, including Paris St-Germain of France.

He is chafing at the bit to break into first team football in Europe.

In the meantime, the Sydney Croatia fans will welcome his appearances for the club as a guest player.

Weekend fixtures



ROUND 7

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

ST GEORGE v ADELAIDE HELLAS

St George Stadium 7.30pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

SYDNEY CROATIA v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Croatian Sports Centre 7pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

WOLLONGONG CITY v MELBOURNE CROATIA

Brandon Park 6pm

ADELAIDE CITY v APIA LEICHHARDT

Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm

SOUTH MELBOURNE v BLACKTOWN CITY

Middle Park 6pm

SUNSHINE GC v PRESTON MAKEDONIA

Skinners Reserve 6pm

MELITA EAGLES v MARCONI

Melita Stadium 6pm

Kevin Hagan is playing better than ever and along with Robert Ironside, Scott Ollerenshaw and Abbas Saad should make life a misery for the Croatian defence and take both points.

South Melbourne should get back on the winning trail on Sunday when they host Blacktown City, kicking off at 6pm.

Against Sydney Olympic last week Souths looked sluggish, particularly in the midfield and coach Puskas will have to work overtime to get the side firing as they did in Round 1 against Sydney Croatia.

Blacktown midfielder Zarko Odzakovic should make his 150th NSL appearance on Sunday but he faces a

cord at home and should win despite their lacklustre display last week.

Adelaide City and Apia Leichhardt meet on Sunday at Hindmarsh Stadium with both sides needing a victory after being held to draws at home last weekend.

APIA have drawn their last three matches and while they have been picking up the points consistently, they have been out of touch in front of goal and boast one of the weakest attacking records in the league.

Adelaide City dropped a valuable point against the struggling St George last week but have only lost at home once to APIA and should stay in

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Quit National League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Olympic	6	4	1	1	12	3	9
Melbourne Croatia	6	3	3	0	9	4	9
Marconi	6	3	2	1	13	6	8
Adelaide City	6	3	2	1	8	4	8
South Melbourne	6	3	1	2	7	4	7
Apia Leichhardt	6	2	3	1	5	3	7
Wollongong City	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Sunshine GC	6	2	2	2	8	7	6
Preston	6	2	2	2	4	5	6
Blacktown City	6	2	1	3	8	9	5
St George	6	1	3	2	7	15	5
Sydney Croatia	6	1	1	4	6	12	3
Melita	6	1	1	4	4	10	3
West Adelaide	6	0	1	5	4	14	1

Results

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (M. Perinovic) SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS 0 at St George Stadium. Crowd: 3119.
MARCONI 0 WOLLONGONG CITY 0 at Marconi Stadium. Crowd: 2309.
APIA LEICHHARDT 1 (S. Clinch) SUNSHINE GC 1 (O. Latif) at Lambert Park. Crowd: 1176.
MELBOURNE CROATIA 3 (J. Caleta 2, G. Hannah) ADELAIDE HELLAS 1 (R. Blair) at Somers Street Stadium. Crowd: 3206.
BLACKTOWN CITY 0 MELITA EAGLES 2 (G. Brown 2) at Gabbie Stadium. Crowd: 2210.
PRESTON MAKEDONIA 2 (G. Woodall 2) SYDNEY CROATIA 1 (G. Arnold) at Connor Reserve. Crowd: 3486.
ADELAIDE CITY 1 (C. Veart) ST GEORGE 1 (A. Harper) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd: 3518.

Top Scorers

Zlatko Nastevski	(Marconi)	6
Ossie Latif	(Sunshine GC)	5
Kevin Hagan	(Sydney Olympic)	4
Abbas Saad	(Sydney Olympic)	4
David Batten	(Wollongong)	3
Rod Brown	(APIA Leichhardt)	3
Joe Caleta	(Melb Croatia)	3
Robbie Ironside	(Olympic)	3
Tony Krslovic	(St George)	3
Ralph Maier	(Blacktown)	3
John Markovski	(Melbourne Croatia)	3

Crowds

ROUND 6: 19,024.
AVERAGE PER GAME: 2,717.
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 128,728
AVERAGE PER ROUND: 21,455.

Team of the week

J. FILAN (St George)
D. SKEEN (Wollongong)
S. PARTON (Sunshine)
C. MOFFITT (St George)
A. MARTH (Melb Croatia)
M. WOODALL (Preston)
G. ARNOLD (Syd Croatia)
G. PHILLIPS (Olympic)
G. BROWN (Melita)
K. HAGAN (Olympic)
O. LATIF (Sunshine)

Player of the Week

OSSIE LATIF (Sunshine GC)



CRAIG MOFFITT — his fine display against Adelaide City earned him a spot in ASW's Team of the Week.



OSSIE LATIF: starred for Sunshine against Apia and should have scored more goals.

Ossie Latif deserved a much better fate

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

OSSIE Latif, Sunshine George Cross' lethal striker, came within a whisker of giving Apia a spanking on their own home ground at Lambert Park.

The post first, then the crossbar, denied Latif a well-deserved hat-trick in his team's 1-1 away draw.

point."

Sunshine opened the scoring in the 20th minute when left defender Alan Roodhouse



MANFRED SCHAEFER — unhappy about Apia's display.

The burly 24-year-old striker later lamented: "Of course, I was a little disappointed missing out on a hat-trick. We should have easily won this match with just a little luck."

Sunshine's youthful coach, Ernie Merrick, also reflected: "Ossie was outstanding in this very fast, open game in which both teams showed they wanted to go forward."

"With a little luck we could have won it 3-1. Like in all our away games we went out for a win and were not just aiming for one

burst down the left to square a flat ball well inside the box to the far post to pick up an amazingly unmarked Latif.

In a flash, the grateful striker blasted a lifting drive high into Apia's net forcing the home team to come forward.

And forward they came just five minutes later to equalise through their industrious left midfielder, Shane Clinch.

Former Marconi midfielder Klaus Okon whipped in a top cross from the right side to find Clinch well posi-

tioned on the back post to send a strong header flashing past a stranded Sean Keogh and into the far right corner of the target.

With the scoreline locked at 1-1, both sides threw themselves into attack and Latif twice hit Tony Pezzano's woodwork.

The first occasion was a splendid 30-metre angled drive in the 73rd minute from the right. But the luckless Latif could only watch in dismay as the ball crashed onto Apia's left post to cannon out of harm's way.

Three minutes later, Sunshine midfielder Les Carter threatened as his 15-metre piledriver was brilliantly tipped over the crossbar by Pezzano, diving sharply to his left.

In the 80th minute, Apia stung back with a solid effort by midfielder Brian Ellem, who struck a 15-metre drive well on target only to see his effort smothered low by Keogh.

Latif, desperately searching to hit the winner, again struck with just two minutes of play left.

From 22 metres out, he unleashed a vicious swinging, yet dipping rocket drive, that ricocheted off Apia's crossbar as Pezzano stood motionless believing the shot would be too high and well clear of the target.

Apia coach Manfred Schaefer was a disappointed man after the game.

"Full credit must go to Sunshine George Cross, but I was most most unhappy with my team's performance as a whole," he said.

Maconi stretched in scoreless draw

BY CLIVE BARRETT

MARCONI can thank goalkeeper Bob Catlin for the shared point in their 0-0 draw with Wollongong City at Marconi Stadium last Saturday.

Catlin was forced to make two brilliant point-blank saves from Wollongong strikers David Batten and Paul McFadden in the opening five minutes of the game.

These two chances were the best given to a Wollongong side that surprised their hosts with an attractive brand of open and attacking football.

Marconi, after looking extremely vulnerable early in the game, gradually clawed their way back by taking control of the midfield through Ian Gray and Tommy McCulloch.

tevski.

Marconi's best chance of the first half came in the 36th minute when McCulloch, after receiving a defence-splitting through ball from Nastevski, sent a powerful shot that was well saved by Wollongong goalkeeper Dragan Pupovac, who also had a solid match.

Wollongong came close to scoring in the 63rd minute when Batten, after receiving the ball from David Skeen on the left flank, slipped past two defenders before sending in a superb cross to McFadden, who pushed the ball centimetres wide of the Marconi goal.

The nearest Marconi came to scoring during the entire game was in the 80th minute, when Robbie



GERRY GOMEZ — his team is still in a slump.

The back-to-back champions began to reproduce their old form towards the end of the first half, and were most dangerous when intelligent running by strikers David Lowe, and Fred de Jong created space in the penalty area for the league's leading scorer, Zlatko Nas-

Wheatley's header was cleared off the Wollongong line by defender Jeff Allport.

Two minutes before the final whistle, Catlin ensured a clean score sheet by diving at the feet of Wolves striker Randell Easthorpe after a poor back pass from Gerry Gomez.

Marconi		Wollongong City	
Catlin	7	Pupovac	6
Gomez	5	Skeen	7
DeMarigny	5	Lloyd	6
Okon	6	Ratcliffe	6
Wheatley	6	Vlietstra	6
Gray	6	Morlando	6
McCulloch	6	Allport	6
Nastevski	6	Batten	7
De Jong	6	McFadden	6
Katholos	5	Easthorpe	7
(Colagiuri 70m)		Crainie	5
Lowe	6	(O'Neil 65m)	

Yellow Cards: Skeen 37m; Easthorpe 38m, for Wollongong; de Marigny 76m, for Marconi.

Referee: Bill Monteverde 6.

Crowd: 2309

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER ANNUAL
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Hickman breaks Olympic hoodoo

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC, who had never defeated South Melbourne Hellas over the last decade in the NSL, made up for it in style with a 1-0 win at St George Stadium last Saturday.

Inspired by red-hot performances from giant striker Kevin Hagan and dynamic midfielder Gary Phillips, Olympic's victory continued new coach Mick Hickman's string of undefeated games.

Since taking over from Eddie Thomson three weeks ago, Hickman has reeled off three consecutive wins to catapult Olympic to the top of the NSL ladder.

Former New Zealand international striker Hagan inspired Olympic's charge into the Victorians.

Hagan's devastating raids and three lethal long-range left-footed drives all deserved goals.

Tough-tackling mid-field destroyer Gary Phillips was also outstanding, repeatedly breaking down South Melbourne raids and knocking first-timed balls into attack with geometric precision.

Sydney Olympic's match-winning, hoodoo-breaking goal arrived 11 minutes into the second half.

New signing Scott Ollerenshaw raided down the right to whip onto the back post a perfect cross for substitute Marko Perinovic.

Perinovic surprisingly powered his header straight into the arms of Melbourne goalkeeper Bruce McLaren, but more surprisingly



CLINT GOSLING: a key member of competition leaders Sydney Olympic's 1989/90 team.

McLaren dropped the ball which fatally rolled across the goal line.

The Hagan and Phillips-inspired Olympic tightened their grip on the match after this goal as South Melbourne slowly but surely began to wilt under pressure.

Melbourne's back-four of David Healy, Mehmet Durakovic, Stevie Blair and fill-in leftback Danny Wright did sterling work to deny Olympic further goals.

Melbourne's best chances came in the 31st minute when first Kim Taliadoros blasted a 15-metre shot which was deflected and then Paul Trimboli hit the rebound which skimmed over Clint Gosling's crossbar.

Olympic's rare victory over Melbourne could, however, prove

most costly as right midfielder Grant Lee was replaced two minutes before halftime with a suspected dislocation of his right shoulder.

Minutes earlier, Lee had collided the powerfully built Taliadoros.

This is how Olympic's

ever-humble coach, Mick Hickman, evaluated his team's performance: "The boys well deserved their victory and Hagan's efforts were tremendous. Hagan is an inspiration to our younger players by his personal example."

Sydney Olympic	South Melbourne
Gosling.....5	McLaren.....4
Barrett.....5	Healy.....6
Plataniotis.....5	Blair.....5
Hooker.....6	Durakovic.....5
Georgakis.....5	Wright.....6
Lee.....5	Petersen.....5
(Perinovic 43m 6)	Palatsides.....4
Ironsides.....5	(Michalokopoulos 72m)
Phillips.....8	Wade.....5
Ollerenshaw.....6	Tsolakis.....5
Hagan.....9	Trimboli.....6
Saad.....5	

Scorers: M. Perinovic 56m for Sydney Olympic.
Yellow cards: Georgakis 4m, Plataniotis 8m for Sydney Olympic; Petersen 64m, Taliadoros 26m for South Melbourne Hellas.
Referee: J. Reeves 8.
Crowd: 3119.

Saints' huge escape act

BY ALAN CLARK

ST GEORGE boss Frank Arok pulled another rabbit out of the hat in Sunday's merited 1-1 draw against Adelaide City at Hindmarsh.

But his young Saints left it late before nailing the goal which gave them justice.

Midfielder Andy Harper was one of three enterprising Saints to follow up a saved Zoran Ilic penalty kick in the 89th minute and net the rebound.

City, apart from an effervescent 10-minute spell at the start of the second-half when Carl Veart bulleted them in front with a header from a Sergio Melta cross, were uncharacteristically untidy and unimpressive.

They never matched the work or enterprise of the young Saints who had Andy Koczka in commanding mood as a midfield general.

Man of the match, though, was Saints defender Craig Moffitt.

He was a rock in defence, regularly moved commandingly into attack and earned St George its last-minute reprieve when fouled by substitute Neville Flounders in the box.

Saints had the better of the goal chances in the opening half.

Matthew Bingley, indeed, must have found it more difficult to miss than score when he spooned an excellent Tony Krslovic set-up past the post in the 3th minute.

City's best chance of the first half fell to young striker Veart who sent a dipping shot just over in 20

minutes.

Sweeper Milan Ivanovich was lucky to remain on field in the 42th minute with a crude tackle on Bingley that neither referee Dennis Voutsinas nor a linesman must have spotted.

City started the second half like an electric flash and looked on the victory route when Veart headed home from one of the few good runs of the evening from skipper Melta.

Young John Filan then kept Saints in the game with saves from Melta, Vidmar and Shillabeer and Alex Tobin hit the bar with a 'screamer'.

Zoran Ilic's clever promptings and full-hearted endeavour ruffled City and he set up a good chance that Harper squandered in the 59th minute.

Harper then shot over 10 minutes later from good position at the edge of the area.

Adelaide City	St George
Zabica.....6	Filan.....7
Shillabeer.....6	Green.....4
T. Vidmar.....4	Morakeas.....7
(Flounders 5)	Moffitt.....8
Ivanovich.....5	Koczka.....7
Tobin.....7	O'Shea.....6
Melta.....5	Harper.....6
Santrac.....5	Krslovic.....5
Veart.....6	Bingley.....6
Mullen.....6	(Milicevic 78m)
Maxwell.....6	Ilic.....7
(Villani 48m)	McGregor.....5
A. Vidmar.....6	(Kakakios 78m)

Scorers: Veart 46m for Ad City; Harper 89m for St George.
Yellow card: Moffitt 44m for St George.
Referee: D. Voutsinas 5.
Crowd: 3518

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Croatia storms home

BY GREG BLAKE

FOR nearly an hour it seemed as if Peter Jaksa's struggling Adelaide Hellas team was set to beat the odds and grab its first win of the season at unbeaten Melbourne Croatia.

Hellas had done everything right and, led by inspirational skipper Alby Kidd, the underdogs who came to Somers Street planted firmly at the foot of the table were set to score a monster of an upset.

While Croatia was mistiming its passes, giving its strikers few chances and missing tackles, the South Australians contented themselves with sticking to what had seemed a daunting task to begin with but, after 60 minutes of play, the visitors were on a roll.

Ray Blair's 59th minute superbly taken goal on the run gave Hellas every incentive it needed to go on with the business and Croatia, whose best effort was a George Hannah header off the woodwork just after half time, were a spent force.

But just as it had happened at St George the week before, the goal was just the spur Melbourne Croatia needed to slip into the finely tuned high gear which took it into last season's finals.

The beauty of Croatia circa 1989 is that you can take out match-winners of the calibre of Alan Davidson, Francis Awaritefe and Josip Biskic, who all missed Sunday's clash with injury, and the Somers Street mob will still bob up with one or two more prepared to shake the life out of a game.

Whilst man of the match was Andrew Marth, closely followed by Hannah, for their 90 minute efforts, Croatia's eventual 3-1 win was inspired by the genius of John Markovski and Gerry Adzic, both of whom were involved in all three goals.

And the contribution of makeshift striker Joe Caleta, a 43rd minute substitute on to replace injured Ivan Kelic, was vital.

Just two minutes after Adelaide had shocked the home gallery, Croatia struck back with a vengeance with Ivan Duzel's far post ball almost lachrymally knocked back over his own shoulder by Markovski to where Con Opasinis headed off the crossbar and



Man of the match Andrew Marth

Hannah was there to polish off the rebound.

Nine minutes later it was Adzic to Markovski and his cross was met superbly on the volley by Caleta to make it 2-1.

For Croatia, which had been playing the first 60 minutes at a snail's pace, it was party time and it came as

no surprise that the home side landed a third goal five minutes from time.

This time it was Adzic slipping the ball wide to Talajich, whose glorious chip into the box was met with a dummy by Markovski and a final goal-bound touch by the delighted Caleta.

Brown brace breaks duck for Melita

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

A highly spirited Melita Eagles bounced right back from the mauling they received from Sydney Olympic to register their first win of the season with a solid 2-0 defeat of Blacktown City at the Gabbie Stadium on Sunday night.

Kiwi striker Greg Brown found the net seconds before the end of each half to finally put a huge smile on the face of Melita coach Raul Blanco and their faithful band of supporters.

Brown's second effort in the dying moments of the game was a class act. He waltzed around five mesmerised defenders including goalkeeper Bill Londos to clinch his side's emphatic victory.

Both teams started off with an ultra-cautious approach, with the Demons employing a five-man backline and Melita determined to close the gaps that were

so ruthlessly exploited by Olympic in their previous outing.

The first half produced loads of effort and commitment but precious little else.

In a rare moment of inspiration after 25 minutes Hugo Gimenez released Marshall Soper inside the box but drove his angled shot wide of the upright.

Blacktown responded within a matter of seconds when Zlatko Arambasic received a great ball from midfield dynamo John Gibson only to slice his attempt well off target from a good position.

That turned out to be Blacktown's best opportunity of the match apart from a power drive by Gary Parker in the 42nd minute which keeper Alex McPherson did well to save after getting a deflection.

Just when the first period appeared doomed to remain scoreless, Brown found

himself free in the box to ram his low shot past Londos right on the half-time whistle.

Despite their efforts to get back into the match during the second half, the Demons were never in it with the Eagles becoming more dominant as the game wore on.

Soper missed from point-blank range after Londos spilled a vicious free kick from Washington Gonzales in the 56th minute and the Blacktown keeper was again twice forced to charge down attempts by Aytec Genc 10 minutes later.

Melita were at last sniffing success and were determined not to let this first victory slip through their fingers.

Towards the end, Blacktown were getting torn apart by the new confident high-flying Eagles, with Genc again failing to put away two good chances.

With seconds remaining and a somewhat drab match coming to its conclusion, Brown produced his moment of magic which gave the rain-soaked fans a memory they will long savour.

The big striker gained possession on the edge of the area, skipped around two defenders, and turned towards goal but instead of having a shot Brown went around another two defenders and keeper Londos before slotting into an empty net.

A truly brilliant effort to put the icing on the cake for Melita's long awaited initial success since their return to NSL football.

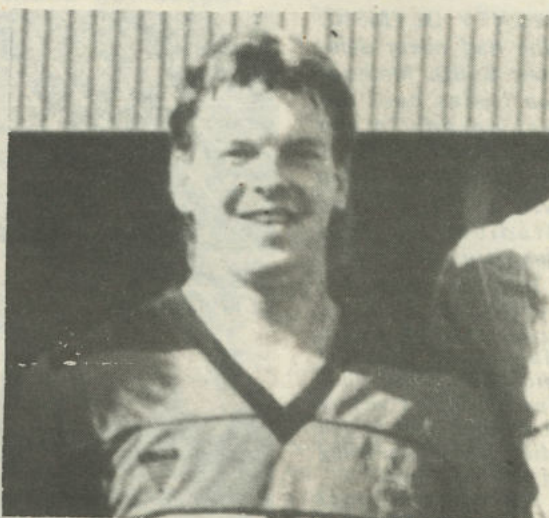
Triumphant return for Martin Woodall

BY VLADO VLAHOVIC

PRESTON midfielder Martin Woodall made a triumphant return to the club he represented briefly in 1986 with two crucial goals to seal a 2-1 victory against a struggling Sydney Croatia outfit at Connor Reserve last Sunday.

Preston supporters must have wondered if a goal was ever going to arrive as the side totally dominated the first half but countless chances went begging.

Last season's Victorian Rothman's Medal winner, Martin Woodall, made his presence felt immediately on his debut with a cross-field pass wide to Robert Runje in acres



STEVE JACKSON

of space.

Runje found Robert Markovac who in turn found Oscar Crino and he went wide to George Slifkas but the final shot was well saved.

The next attack was initiated by defender George Jolevski who hit a long cross which was fumbled by young 'keeper Kalac but Andrew Zinni could only volley wide from six metres.

Soon after, Zinni had another chance supplied by Jolevski, wide on the left again, but he speculated too long on the ball and a desperate defence cleared the danger.

Then came defender Robert Runje, unmarked wide on the right again, he cut in and hit a 30-metre piledriver but young Kalac made a brilliant airborne save to his right.

Finally, in the 39th minute the goal that seemed unreachable arrived when Zinni sent a centre to Woodall, who slid into the teeth of the goalmouth and tapped the ball under Kalac.

After the interval, Sydney Croatia came out a different side and actually had the better of their Melbourne opponents, especially with substitute Michael Grbevski playing well on the left wing and Socceroo Graham Arnold coming into it more.

Arnold charged towards a loose ball bouncing goalward but 'keeper Phil Traianedes courageously came off

his line to beat Arnold to it.

By now Arnold was hungry for action. He blasted a powerful volley from just inside the area that looked a certain goal but a spectacular diving clearance by Zoran Tasevski off the line was heroic.

Unfortunately for Preston, Tasevski's heroics resulted in the defender being stretched off the park after connecting with the cross bar.

Tasevski was rushed to hospital but arrived back at the club later fully recovered.

Soon after, Markovac was sprinting to a ball with a clear passage in sight but defender Wally Savor, sensing the danger, held the striker back and as a result was sent off for a second bookable offence.

Again Arnold retaliated after a square pass from Grbevski when he smashed a 25-metre shot just over the top.

In the 87th minute Preston made it 2-0 when Markovac, deep on the left, sent a high cross into the centre, 'keeper Kalac dropped the high ball as a result of pressure from Momirovski and Woodall was at hand to find the back of the net with his knee!

Sydney Croatia scored a consolation goal in the 89th minute when Graham Arnold robbed the ball off Steve Jackson, then went on a short run before hitting a clinical strike into the far corner of the net from about 20 metres.

Preston	Sydney Croatia
Traianedes.....6	Kalac.....6
Runje.....6	Savor (sent off).....5
Jolevski.....6	Babic.....5
Jackson.....5	Hunter.....5
Tasevski.....6	(Popovic 65m).....5
(Branov 76m).....7	Jones.....5
Woodall.....7	Ricoy.....5
Petrov.....5	Rumora.....5
Slifkas.....5	Seal.....5
(Momirovski 74m).....5	Arnold.....7
Markovac.....5	Gojevic.....4
Crino.....6	(Grbevski 5).....5
Zinni.....6	Lamond.....5

Scorers: Woodall 39 and 87m for Preston; Arnold 89m for Sydney Croatia.

Yellow cards: Runje 40m for Preston.

Red card: Savor 82m for Sydney Croatia.

Referee: J. Rossis 7.

Crowd: 3486.

Melbourne Croatia	Adelaide Hellas
Rados.....7	Parks.....5
Horvat.....6	Barrett.....6
Selemides.....6	Slager.....5
Hannah.....7	Maricic.....5
Marth.....8	Watkins.....4
Milosevic.....6	Heim.....6
Opasinis.....6	Kidd.....7
Adzic.....7	Brazzale.....6
Duzel.....4	Vatsilas.....5
(Talajich 83m).....4	(Mills 74m).....5
Markovski.....7	Blair.....6
Kelic.....5	Rankin.....5
(Caleta 43m 6).....5	(Preston 74m).....5

Scorers: Hannah 61m, Caleta 70m and 85m for Melbourne Croatia; Blair 59m for Adelaide Hellas.

Yellow card: Brazzale 31m for Adelaide Hellas.

Referee: G. Power 7.

Crowd: 3206.



OLYMPIC


NEW FIREBALL


BRAZIL


Blacktown	Melita Eagles
Londos.....6	McPherson.....7
Maier.....5	Williams.....6
Yankos.....6	O'Donnell.....5
Reynolds.....5	Barrios.....6
Longo.....6	Gonzalez.....7
Northam.....6	Callanan.....7
Gibson.....5	Genc.....6
Jee.....5	Gimenez.....6
(P. Carter 5).....5	(Vial 34m,6).....6
Parker.....6	Soper.....6
Arambasic.....5	Cerro.....5
Gunning.....5	(Farrugia 89m).....5
(Bennett 75m).....5	G. Brown.....8

Scorers: G. Brown 44 and 90 mins for Melita.

Yellow cards: Parker 46m, Longo 63m, Bennett 88m for Blacktown.

Referee: R. Lorenc 7.

Crowd: 2210.

SOCCER POOLS

THE POOLS



LAST WEEK'S RESULTS WEEK 228 SAT 9 DECEMBER, 1989

POOLS RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

Total Prize Pool \$1,110,379.14.

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 15, 20, 27, 32, 34, 36. Supplementary Number: 13

Division 1

The Prize Pool is \$1,022, 802.94.

No winner - Jackpot week 229 (Est. \$1,200,000 next week).

Division 2

The Prize Pool is \$5,003.75

5 provisional winners of \$1,000.75.

Division 3

The Prize Pool is \$15,011.10

78 winners of \$192.45 ea.

Division 4

The Prize Pool is \$37,560.15

3,629 winners of \$10.35 ea.

Division 5

The Prize Pool is \$30,001.20

4,348 winners of \$6.90 ea.

MATCH RESULTS

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	CHARLTON	MILLWALL	1	1-1
	COVENTRY	ARSENAL	2	0-1
	LIVERPOOL	ASTON VILLA	3	1-1
	MAN. UTD.	CRYSTAL P.	4	1-2
	NOTT'M F.	NORWICH	5	0-1
	Q.P.R.	CHELSEA	6	4-2
	SHEFF. WED.	LUTON	7	1-1
	SOUTH'PTON	MAN. CITY	8	2-1
	TOTTENHAM	EVERTON	9	2-1
	WIMBLEDON	DERBY	10	1-1
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	BLACKBURN	LEICESTER	11	2-4
	BRADFORD C.	WEST HAM	12	2-1
	BRIGHTON	WOLVES	13	1-1
	HULL	PORT VALE	14	2-1
	IPSWICH	SUNDERLAND	15	1-1
	MIDDLESBRO	LEEDS	16	0-2
	NEWCASTLE	OXFORD UTD.	17	2-3
	STOKE	BARNLEY	18	0-1
	WATFORD	OLDHAM	19	3-0
	WEST BROM.	BOURNEMOUTH	20	2-2
F.A. CUP 2ND ROUND	CHESTERFIELD	HUDD'FIELD	21	0-2
	COLCHESTER	BIRMINGHAM	22	0-2
	GRIMSBY	DONCASTER	23	1-0
	ROCHDALE	LINCOLN	24	3-0
	WIGAN A.	CARLISLE	25	2-0
	BUXTON	GAINSBORO	26	2-1
	CAERNARFON	HYDE	27	1-1
	COLNEDYN	BANGOR	28	2-1
	GOOLE	S. LIVERPOOL	29	2-1
	HORWICH	GATESHEAD	30	4-1
H.F.S. LOANS PREMIER DIVISION	MATLOCK	MARINE	31	2-1
	MOSSLEY	RHYL	32	2-2
	STALYBRIDGE	WITTON A.	33	1-0
	ALVECHURCH	CRAWLEY	34	1-1
	ATHERSTONE	CHELMSFORD	35	3-1
	BROMSGROVE	DORCHESTER	36	3-3
	DOVER	BURTON A.	37	2-0
	RUGBY	WEALDSTONE	38	2-0

*Winning match numbers and supplementary number.

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.

Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST WEEK 229 SAT 16 DECEMBER

ENGLISH DIVISION 1	ARSENAL	LUTON	1
	CHARLTON	CRYSTAL P.	2
	COVENTRY	WIMBLEDON	3
	MILLWALL	ASTON VILLA	4
	NORWICH	DERBY	5
	SHEFF. WED.	Q.P.R.	6
	BLACKBURN	STOKE	7
	BOURNEMOUTH	BARNLEY	8
	HULL	IPSWICH	9
	LEEDS	BRIGHTON	10
ENGLISH DIVISION 2	MIDDLESBRO	LEICESTER	11
	NEWCASTLE	PLYMOUTH	12
	OXFORD UTD.	WOLVES	13
	PORTSMOUTH	SUNDERLAND	14
	PORT VALE	SHEFF. UTD.	15
	WATFORD	BRADFORD C.	16
	WEST HAM	OLDHAM	17
	BIRMINGHAM	PRESTON	18
	BLACKPOOL	FULHAM	19
	BRISTOL C.	LEYTON O.	20
ENGLISH DIVISION 3	BURY	WALSALL	21
	CARDIFF	NOTTS. C.	22
	ROTHERHAM	HUDDERSFIELD	23
	SHREWSBURY	BOLTON	24
	WIGAN A.	SWANSEA	25
	CHESTERFIELD	YORK	26
	COLCHESTER	TORQUAY	27
	EXETER	GILLINGHAM	28
	GRIMSBY	SOUTHEND	29
	HEREFORD	SCUNTHORPE	30
ENGLISH DIVISION 4	MAIDSTONE	HARTLEPOOL	31
	ROCHDALE	LINCOLN	32
	SCARBORO	ALDERSHOT	33
	WREXHAM	BURNLEY	34
	ALVECHURCH	WEYMOUTH	35
	ASHFORD	ATHERSTONE	36
	BATH	DOVER	37
	BURTON A.	CAMBRIDGE C.	38

RESERVE MATCHES

* VAUXHALL PREM. LGE.	CHELMSFORD	GOSPORT	39
	CORBY	BROMSGROVE	40
	AYLESBURY	ST. ALBANS	41
	BARKING	BROMLEY	42
	BASINGSTOKE	HENDON	43
	BISHOPS S.	HAYES	44
	DULWICH	BOGNOR R.	45
	GRAYS	LEYTON W'TE	46
	CELTIC	DUNDEE	47
	DUNDEE U.	RANGERS	48
SCOTTISH PREM. DIV.	HEARTS	ABERDEEN	49
	MOTHERWELL	HIBERNIAN	50
	ST. MIRREN	DUNFERMLINE	51
	ALBION R.	HAMILTON	52
	ALLOA	FORFAR	53
	AYR	RAITH	54
	CLYDEBANK	FALKIRK	55

*BEAZER HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE

JACKPOT

WEEK 229

\$1.2M (est)

THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 9/12/1989 — WEEK 228

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED																NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED													
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
24	26	36	14	27	43	32	40	2	21	2	2	26	6	1	11	4	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
42	50	44	44	43	44	47	42	16	6	12	2	0	3	0	1	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
40	41	33	49	43	47	46	44	5	3	20	0	1	4	14	3	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
45	52	48	58	49	66	46	50	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
48	60	52	62	48	48			33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools



ENGLISH Div 1: Charlton 1, Millwall 1, Coventry 0, Arsenal 1, Liverpool 1, Aston Villa 1, Manchester United 1, Crystal Palace 2, Nottingham Forest 0, Norwich 1, Queen's Park Rangers 4, Chelsea 2, Sheffield Wednesday 1, Luton 1, Southampton 2, Manchester City 1, Tottenham 2, Everton 1, Wimbledon 1, Derby 1.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	17	10	3	4	29	17	33
Liverpool	17	9	4	4	34	18	31
Aston Villa	17	9	4	4	28	17	31
Norwich	17	7	7	3	24	18	28
Southampton	17	7	6	4	35	28	27
Chelsea	17	7	6	4	26	21	27
Derby	17	7	4	6	22	14	25
Tottenham	17	7	4	6	25	24	25
Everton	17	7	3	7	24	24	24
Coventry	17	7	2	8	13	22	23
Notts Fst	17	6	4	7	21	17	22
Man Utd	16	6	3	7	24	23	21
QPR	17	5	6	6	21	21	21
Wimbledon	17	4	8	5	18	20	20
Luton	17	4	7	6	18	21	19
Cryst Pal	17	5	4	8	20	36	19
Millwall	17	4	6	7	24	30	18
Sheff Wed	18	4	5	9	12	27	17
Charlton	17	3	7	7	13	19	16
Man City	17	4	3	10	20	34	15

Div 2: Blackburn 2, Leicester 4, Bradford 2, West Ham 1, Brighton 1, Wolverhampton 1, Hull 2, Port Vale 1, Ipswich 1, Sunderland 1, Middlesbrough 0, Leeds 2, Newcastle 2, Oxford 3, Stoke 0, Barnsley 1, Watford 3, Oldham 0, West Bromwich 2, Bournemouth 2.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds	21	13	5	3	36	21	44
Sheff Utd	20	12	6	2	35	21	42
Sunderland	21	10	7	4	36	29	37
Newcastle	21	10	6	5	38	24	36
Ipswich	21	9	7	5	32	27	34
Oldham	21	9	7	5	27	23	34
West Ham	21	8	7	6	32	25	31
Blackburn	21	7	10	4	38	33	31
Swindon	20	8	6	6	36	27	30
Wolves	21	7	7	7	30	27	28

Brighton	21	8	3	10	31	30	27
Plymouth	20	8	3	9	31	30	27
Port Vale	21	6	8	7	25	26	26
Oxford	21	7	5	9	30	33	26
Watford	21	7	5	9	24	27	26
Bournemouth	21	7	5	9	30	35	26
WBA	21	6	7	8	35	36	25
Leicester	21	6	6	9	26	32	24
Bradford	21	5	8	8	23	26	23
Barnsley	21	6	5	10	23	41	23
Middlesbrough	21	5	6	10	24	34	21
Portsmouth	20	4	7	9	22	31	19
Hull	21	2	11	8	21	29	17
Stoke	21	2	9	10	17	35	15

SCOTTISH Premier Div: Aberdeen 2, Dundee United 0, Dundee 3, St. Mirren 3, Dunfermline 0, Hearts 2, Hibernian 0, Celtic 3, Rangers 3, Motherwell 0.

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen	17	10	3	4	24	10	23
Rangers	17	10	3	4	24	11	23
Celtic	17	7	6	4	22	15	20
Hearts	17	8	3	6	33	22	19
Dundee Utd	16	5	6	5	19	20	16
Dunfermline	17	5	6	6	21	23	16
Motherwell	17	4	7	6	20	24	15
Hibernian	17	5	5	7	17	23	15
St Mirren	16	3	5	8	15	34	11
Dundee	17	2	6	9	24	37	10

Div 1: Airdrieonians 1, Ayr 1, Clyde 0, Meadowbank 3, Falkirk 1, Partick 1, Forfar 3, Albion 0, Hamilton 2, Clydebank 1, Morton 0, St. Johnstone 0, Raith 1, Alloa 1.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Johnst	19	12	6	1	38	19	30
Airdrie	19	12	4	3	36	18	28
Partick	19	9	8	2	37	20	26
Hamilton	19	7	7	5	24	26	21
Clyde	19	6	7	6	20	22	19
Clydebank	19	7	4	8	35	33	18
Ayr	19	5	8	6	27	31	18
Raith	19	7	4	8	24	30	18
Falkirk	19	5	7	7	28	27	17
Morton	19	3	11	5	16	20	17
Alloa	19	4	8	7	29	32	16
Meadbank	19	4	7	8	20	25	15

NSL facts and figures

Check these milestones

ASW's GREG BLAKE extracted these facts and figures from his extensive records.

Check his compilations for the milestones that are coming up for your NSL team.

It's a fact that: **MARCONI's** round eight game against South Melbourne Hellas will be its 350th NSL league fixture.

Ironically, South Melbourne Hellas will be celebrating the same milestone that same day, as will Adelaide City.

Marconi's first goal in its recent 3-2 win at Adelaide Hellas was its 300th away league goal and the club's 700th total goal in all league, cup and finals fixtures.

played more NSL Cup games than any other team having appeared in 34 cup ties.

Of the current NSL clubs, the next best are Marconi and Sydney Olympic, both on 32.

SYDNEY CROATIA celebrated its 150th league game against St George in round two and its second goal against Sunshine George Cross one week later was the club's 250th in league, cup and finals games.

and finals games.

APIA will celebrate its 300th league game in round 10 at Sydney Olympic.

Four away wins will give Apia 50 'on the road' in league fixtures.

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS passed the 150 league games mark when it beat South Melbourne Hellas at home in round two.

Eight wins this season will give George 50 victories in league fixtures.

BLACKTOWN's third win of the year at Wollongong was its 50th in the league and its

MELITA EAGLES will make the 50 league and cup games milestone at Sydney Croatia in round 13.

Melita is the only current NSL team to have never played in a post-season finals game.

To the start of this season:

• **MARCONI** had never beaten Melita Eagles in a league game.

• **ST GEORGE** had never beaten Melbourne Croatia or Melita in the league.

• **PRESTON MAKEDONIA** had never defeated Sydney Croatia or Blacktown in a league game.



Claude Lucchesi (left) and Drago Deankovic in action — both are transfer-listed.

Danny Wright is 'Mr Versatility'

BY GREG BLAKE

SOUTH Melbourne Hellas star Danny Wright might have made the biggest mistake of his impressive career when he put in a stand-out performance as South Melbourne knocked off Preston Makedonia in Round 5.

Wright, an attacking midfielder or forward, found himself a fullback by default for the big local derby.

Injuries to key defenders left Hellas a man short at the back and, rather than risk an inexperienced newcomer, coach Ferenc Puskas gave Wright the responsibility.

Or, as Wright puts it, the former Brisbane Lions champ drew the short straw.

Rather than playing just a stop-gap role, Wright was one of the better players on the park and no doubt Puskas has pencilled in the speedster for future trips to the back four.

"I hope I don't have to make a habit of it, though," says Wright of his first NSL game as a defender.

"I want to get my own spot back as soon as possible."

If Wright was hoping for an easy day against Preston, it didn't quite turn out that way.

With Preston expected to line up with just two men up front, Wright was to spend as much of the game as possible pushing up the left.

Instead, just as the game was almost underway, Puskas ran to the touchline to tell the young Hellas star that Preston's Robbie Markovic was lining up as a winger.

"I looked back at the coach and told him I already knew," says Wright with a grin.

"Robbie's a good player and I knew I was in for a tough day."

"It was certainly a change to play in defence — I found I had to concentrate so much and I was worrying right throughout the game."

"When you're playing upfield you are trying to



"If you've played the game long enough you should be able to play anywhere."

"But I don't think I'll be a defender for too long."

"With Angie (Postecoglou), Harry (Micheil) and Paul (Fernandes) out injured, I guess I was just the most adaptable bloke left with a bit of experience."

"Once those guys come back I don't think I'll have to play there again."

As for Hellas and its quest for its first title since 1985, Wright is certain the club is on track.

"We haven't hit form yet," was his warning to the other 13 NSL clubs.

make things difficult for others. This time they were making it difficult for me."

The old cliché that forwards often make the best defenders is not quite true, according to Wright.

"It all comes down to experience," he says.

Vic Transfer Market

SOME well-known names are on the outer in Victoria, according to the latest transfer list released by the Victorian Soccer Federation on its December 1 transfer opening day.

Some of the most prominent names are:

- ★ Scott Patterson (B. Juventus) — \$16,000
- ★ Frank McGrellis (B. Juventus) — \$10,000
- ★ Colin Quigley (Croydon) — \$4,500
- ★ Claude Lucchesi (Heidelberg) — \$8,000
- ★ Yakka Banovic (Heidelberg) — \$7,500
- ★ John Stewart (Heidelberg) — \$18,000
- ★ Peter Tredinnick (Heidelberg) — \$5,000
- ★ Kevin Innes (Polonia) — \$1,500
- ★ Stuart Cannell (Melbourne Croatia) — \$5,000
- ★ Mate Grgic (Melbourne Croatia) — \$4,000
- ★ Frank Valentic (Melbourne Croatia) — \$4,000
- ★ Zoran Nikitovic (Melbourne JUST) — \$18,000
- ★ Drago Deankovic (Melbourne JUST) — \$20,000
- ★ Ernie Tapai (Melbourne JUST) — \$10,000
- ★ Mike McLennan (Preston Makedonia) — \$12,000
- ★ Veslin Soklevski (Preston Makedonia) — \$4,000
- ★ Ilija Taseski (Preston Makedonia) — \$3,000
- ★ Aki Kotzamichalis (S. George Cross) — \$7,500
- ★ Chris Taylor (S. George Cross) — \$10,000
- ★ Mark Lennon (S. George Cross) — \$8,000
- ★ Don McLaren (S. George Cross) — \$10,000

— GREG BLAKE



MARCONI — their 700th NSL goal is coming up and a 100th NSL defeat may also be looming.

Marconi became the first club to top 400 league, cup and finals games when it met St George in round three.

When, and if, Marconi losses its third game of the season it will be the club's 100th league defeat.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's ninth goal of the season against Melita Eagles in round five was its 400th league goal.

ST GEORGE's 13th goal of the season will be its 500th in all league, cup and finals games and the club conceded its 500th in round three during a 7-0 defeat by Marconi.

Four away wins this year will give the Saints 50 'on the road' in the league games.

MELBOURNE CROATIA passed the 150 league games milestone at Sydney Olympic in round two.

PRESTON MAKEDONIA started the summer season just nine wins shy of 100 league victories.

ADELAIDE CITY's round eight fixture at Preston will give the club a record-equalling 350 NSL league appearances.

The South Australian club needs only 23 goals this season to break the 500-league goals mark.

Adelaide City has

When Sydney Croatia let in four against South Melbourne on opening day it passed the 200 league, cup and finals goals conceded milestone.

SOUTH MELBOURNE HELLAS will play its 350th league game at Marconi in round eight.

If Hellas, which has won its first three home games this year, can win 12 at Middle Park during 1989/90 it will become the first team in NSL history to pass the 100 home wins milestone.

26 home goals will give Hellas 300 total league goals at Middle Park.

South Melbourne's round 21 game will be its 400th in all NSL league, cup and finals games.

Its fourth goal in round one against Sydney Croatia was the club's 500th in league games.

When South Melbourne concedes its ninth goal of the year it will be its 400th against in league matches.

WOLLONGONG's third loss of the season will be its 100th in all league, cup and finals games and if the club manages 14 goals it will pass the 300 goal milestone in all league, cup

second goal conceded in the same game made it 300 against in all league, cup and finals matches.

ADELAIDE HELLAS will pass the 300 league, cup and finals games milestone in round seven at St George.

Four wins for the season will give the club 100 all-up in league, cup and finals games.

• **SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS** had never beaten Blacktown in a league fixture.

• **BLACKTOWN** was still to beat Melbourne Croatia or South Melbourne in a league game.

• **MELITA EAGLES** had never beaten Sydney Olympic, Wollongong or Marconi in the league.

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S SOCCER ASSOCIATION

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and
NATIONAL JUNIOR (U16) COACH



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Maitland Street
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Commitments: Youth championships, Melbourne, 8-14 July

AIS training camp, 15-19 August
New Zealand tour of Australia, mid October
Junior championships, Brisbane, 1-7 July
AIS training camp, 2-7 October

Further details: Heather Reid 062-485834 (after 10.1.90)

US media sarcasm

HERE's more ammunition for those — and they are many — who believe that awarding the 1994 World Cup to the United States is a waste.

Those sceptics feel the World Cup will have little or no impact on the population at large and that an American World Cup is only an exercise in marketing.

Americans, as a whole, know little and care even less about soccer despite the millions of kids who play the game there.

They are the most parochial nation on earth, believing — in sport and in everything else — that they are the centre of the universe.



The US bench erupts after the victory against Trinidad and Tobago which clinched a World Cup finals berth for the Americans.

The following article by MIKE ROYKO in the CHICAGO TRIBUNE needs no commentary.

Royko, who is reputed to be America's leading humorist and satirist, and whose column is syndicated in dozens of other publications, is not alone — not by a long shot — in his contempt for soccer.

Read on and weep over Royko's piece, headlined, "Take America out to the

OFFSIDE

FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni says soccer's offside rule could be changed next year in a move to improve the game.

It may become permissible for an attacker to receive the ball when standing level with the opposing side's last outfield player without being judged offside.

FIFA says in its monthly bulletin it will consider a proposal to alter the rule at its annual meeting in Rome next June and Tognoni says it could be adopted from July 1990.

The World Cup may be the last tournament to be played with the present rule.

brawl game? No thanks."

"As a sports fan, I suppose I should be pleased that in 1994 the planet's most popular sports event — the World Cup soccer championship — will be held in this country for the first time. But all it does is make me nervous.

For years, I've watched the highlights of international soccer competition on the TV news. And the highlight is usually a riot by the fans.

announce the final score, then they give you the body count.

"They don't mess around. A few years ago, some British fans got angry at some Italian fans. So they pushed over a wall, crushing three dozen Italians to death.

"The British fans are the most notorious in Europe, and deservedly so. Their idea of a whoopee celebration is to stick someone with a knife or a jagged bottle, toss ball bearings, or pitch someone off the top of the stands or in front of a subway train.

"After a big game in Colombia, some fans in the upper deck expressed their displeasure with the outcome by dropping fireworks and urinating on the fans in the lower deck.

"This caused a stampede to the exits that left 24 people very flat and very dead.

"I've never understood why soccer affects its followers that way.

"It's not as violent as hockey, football or boxing, and it doesn't have the subtle tension of baseball.

"If anything, it's always struck me as being kind of dull: a bunch of bowlegged guys named Heinz or Jorge butting the ball with their heads.

"Maybe it's because it's the only game in which the players use their heads to propel the ball.

"Assuming that the fans of soccer also play the game, all that butting of a ball with their heads might make their brains squishy.

"That may be why soccer, the world's most popular team sport, has never caught on in this country.

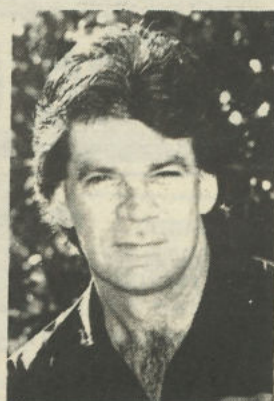
"So what will happen when all those soccer teams and their fans are here, and Heinz and Jorge start bouncing balls off their heads, and millions of Americans who know nothing about the game start laughing?

"Do we want British skinheads rioting in our streets, Colombians urinating on the lower deck or grabbing our throats?

"And if any indignant soccer fans are going to write me nasty letters, I will tell you in advance that I won't take you seriously unless you enclose a statement from your physician saying that you don't have a flat spot on your head.

JOHNNY WARREN

HAS HIS SAY



Chile crucifies Rojas

WHEN national soccer star Roberto Rojas dropped in agony to the turf during a crucial World Cup match in Brazil, apparently scathed by a sizzling firework, all of Chile cried "Foul."

Now, sympathy has turned to scandal with a finding that Rojas may have cut himself, before more than 120,000 people in one of the world's biggest sports stadiums, to halt the game his team was losing and try to earn a rematch.

The ensuing fury has spawned death threats against national soccer federation leaders and even has eclipsed, at least for a couple of days, the first presidential elections in nearly two decades.

It is sparking widespread debate that, for some, extends beyond the question of sports to social justice and national moral fabric.

"This situation has changed, and has crossed the line of what is sports," the national soccer federation president, Guillermo Weinstein, said after announcing his resignation because of anonymous telephone calls threatening him with death.

Taking a cue from Weinstein, all of the federation's members resigned. One, Manuel Suarez, said he also received an anonymous call "saying they were going to blow me up."

The story dominated the front pages of



Roberto Rojas being carried off the Maracana pitch after claiming he was hit by the shrapnel of a flare.

almost all Santiago newspapers, including the staid daily 'El Mercurio', which ran an editorial cartoon showing a goalie's thick glove hiding a variety of sharp instruments.

Brazil led 1-0 in the September 3 match in Rio de Janeiro's huge and raucous Maracana Stadium to decide which country would go to the 1990 World Cup tournament in Rome.

In the 69th minute, a firework flare descended to the playing field near Rojas, the goalkeeper for Chile. He fell down and writhed in apparent pain, his gloves covering his face.

His team carried him off the field a few minutes later, his face bloody from a cut on his forehead. Chile refused to return from the locker room, charging it was too dangerous.

They asked for a rematch, at a neutral site.

But videotape and photographs later showed the flare never touched Rojas but rather landed about a metre away from him.

In October FIFA rejected Chile's request for a new game, awarded the victory to Brazil and severely sanctioned Rojas. It suspended him from all play for three months and from international games for life.

The federation did not conclude how Rojas was cut, but spoke of an apparent farce.

In Chile, there was a general suspicion that FIFA's decision might have been influenced by Brazil's status as a

world soccer power. So the country created its own commission of respected jurists, which issued its findings last week.

"He himself inflicted the wound," the Chilean commission concluded. "He is the most responsible for all that happened after."

Rojas steadfastly denies the charge, claiming he is being made a scapegoat for higher-

ups and for what he says qualifies as a national problem.

"Here the workers have always been pushed around, manipulated, and in soccer it isn't any different," he said in a local television interview. "It reflects a reality that extends to all activities."

He repeatedly has said he doesn't know what cut him, but suspects it was shrapnel from the flare. Both the FIFA and the Chilean investigations found that the flare doesn't produce shrapnel.

The local commission did spread the blame somewhat. It said the Chilean coach, Orlando Aravena, ordered Rojas by walkie-talkie to remain prostrate and only leave the field on a stretcher.

It also said the whole team was, even before the game started, "ready to, if not already planning to, withdraw in the event any incident occurred on the field of play." But it did not suggest the incident itself was plotted.

FRANZ QUILTS

FRANZ BECKENBAUER will quit as West German national coach after next year's World Cup in Italy and will be succeeded by Berti Vogts.

Beckenbauer, who took over as national team manager in 1984, will become a marketing executive for the West German Soccer Federation, Federation chief Hermann Neuberger said.

Vogts, 42, played with Beckenbauer in the same West German national team that won the World Cup in 1974.

Beckenbauer, 44, is quitting the team at his own wish, Neuberger said.



TICKETS BONANZA

SOCCER fans bought about 11,000 tickets for the inaugural game of next year's World Cup on the first day of sale, organisers said.

Tickets for the June 8 match in Milan involving defending champions Argentina went on sale at the counters of one of the largest Italian banks.

The game, at the Meazza Stadium, is expected to produce a sellout crowd of 80,000.

The decade in review

FRANK SCICLUNA REVIEWS THE 80S AND LOOKS AHEAD

THE recently commenced 1989/90 summer season marks the beginning of a new decade for Australian soccer, one which should develop into a catalyst for launching the code into the 21st century.

As we look forward with hope of a new positive direction for the game, we should also stop and reflect for one moment on some of the high and low points of the decade about to end.

Despite a large number of very real problems facing soccer, the eighties did manage to produce a certain amount of progress on which the game's development can be built.

By far the most encouraging aspect to come out of this past decade has been the emergence of some tremendous locally produced talent which has completely changed the face of Australian football.

While most of our leading clubs — and for that matter, our national team, were largely made up of players imported from the lower divisions of Europe and to a lesser extent South America, the wheel has now just about turned full circle.

Not only has the decade ended with a high proportion of Australian born and bred footballers leading the way at club and international level, the game is now even exporting its talent to the same countries from which many of our imports used to come from.

While this emergence of our playing talent was so signifi-



FRANK AROK — Coach of the Decade.

cant in the eighties, soccer is on the verge of taking its progress into the nineties one step further.

The last few years have produced a definite trend towards the use of local coaches by our leading clubs, rather than relying on imported ones.

When Marconi boss

forced to endure a frustrating decade of mixed emotions.

From that infamous day at the old Sydney Cricket Ground on May 16 1981 when New Zealand ruined all Rudi Gutendorf's hopes of leading the Socceroos to Spain in 1982 and ended his own turbulent era in

COACH OF THE DECADE — FRANK AROK

Arok was only successful in winning one championship with St George in 1983 against Eddie Thomson's hat trick with Sydney City and Berti Mariani's two titles at Marconi, but his long tenure with the Saints and his achievements at international level gives Arok a possible slight edge.

Berti Mariani became the first Australian born coach to lead his club to an NSL championship in 1988, the die was well and truly cast.

Others are beginning to follow and there's little doubt that the success obtained in producing local players in the eighties will continue into the coaching arena in the nineties.

It's simply a matter of natural progression.

On the national team front, soccer fans were

In between those two extremes, the Socceroos went from the depth of losing against a rag tag Fiji outfit in a preliminary World Cup qualifier to the heights of beating the much fancied Yugoslavia in the Seoul Olympics.

But perhaps the most meaningful and satisfying result achieved by the Socceroos in the eighties was their 2-1 victory over Israel in Tel Aviv in the 1985 World Cup Oceania group qualifier.

While the importance of beating Argentina and Yugoslavia should not be underestimated, that magnificent defeat of arch rivals Israel in the white hot atmosphere of World Cup battle in front of 50,000 fanatical and hostile Israelis brought Australia to within a whisker of making the finals for the first time since 1974.

Only blatant politics by FIFA which forced that unnecessary play off against Scotland and incidentally another unforgettable night at Olympic Park in that second leg scoreless draw, kept the Socceroos from taking their place in Mexico.

The eighties also saw our youngsters making their mark at international level.

When FIFA awarded the 1981

PLAYER OF THE DECADE — JOHN KOSMINA

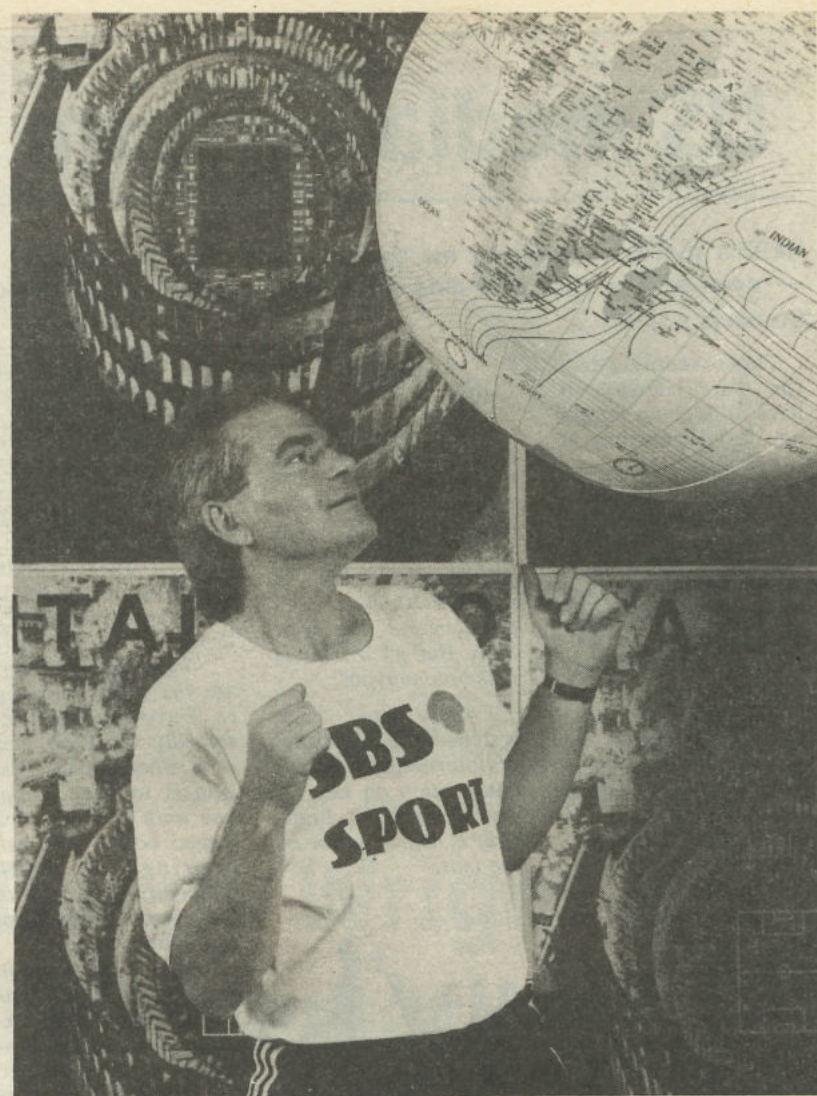
John Kosmina's record with the Socceroos and at club level during the eighties speaks for itself. Numerous players come into contention but it's hard to go past Kossie.



JOHN KOSMINA

tournament on July 14 1988.

World Youth Championships to Aus-



LES MURRAY — his SBS network's coverage of soccer was a major highlight of the 1980s.

MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT FOR SOCCER IN THE 80s — SBS Television

The birth of SBS television in 1980 has given soccer fans in Australia a thorough coverage which is comparable to if not better than anywhere in the world. I sometimes wonder if we don't take what SBS is doing for soccer too much for granted. The impact that it must have on the development of youngsters is impossible to gauge but it must be immense. Thank God for Dominic Galati, Les Murray and their crew.

least the gap is slowly but surely becoming narrower.

The biggest dilemma facing soccer in the nineties is surely the stagnation of our National League.

It is simply going nowhere and few will argue that little progress has been made since its introduction in 1977.

Thousands of words have been written and said as to where the core of the problem lies.

All these negatives can be overcome by

tor facilities, one thing is absolutely certain.

Unless the league recognises and acts upon this obvious flaw in its own make up, then drags its member clubs along with it, the situation can hardly be expected to be any better by the turn of the century.

The time for band aid cures has long been and gone.

Our premier league is slowly suffocating and no one seems to be prepared to make a meaningful effort to save it.

Hit and miss attempts at short term solving are all that anyone can offer when what is so desperately needed is a virtual rebirth.

The cruel irony in all of this is that while our soccer is slowly moving forward towards international respectability, our leading domestic league is being allowed to die on its feet.

MOST PROGRESSIVE CLUB OF THE DECADE — MARCONI

Marconi has arguably achieved more in the last three years both on and off the field, than any other club during the entire decade. It is now without doubt the club has set the standards for others to follow into the nineties.

has without doubt come a long way in the last ten years.

We're still far from ready to mix it successfully with the traditional giants of soccer just yet, but at

businesslike, aggressive administration.

Whether it's the lack of marketing and promotion, the ethnic image of the game, unfavourable media or the shortage of specta-

MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUB OF THE DECADE — SOUTH MELBOURNE

Souths' record in the NSL during the eighties just shades that of Marconi, even though the Bossley Park club has won the championship twice against South Melbourne's only title in 1984.

The now defunct Sydney City has got an even better percentage over the seven seasons it played in until 1986, but is overtaken by both Souths and Marconi over the full decade.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
South Melbourne	264	127	71	66	325
Marconi	264	115	69	80	299
Sydney City	186	110	45	31	265

NSL CHAMPIONSHIPS — Sydney City
Marconi —
South Melbourne —

3 in 1980, 1981, 1982
2 in 1988, 1989,
1 in 1984,

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ASW INDOOR EXPERT
JOE DI MEGLIO



Vince Nastoski's shot is blocked by Bruce Thurlow in the final in front of a full house — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

WOMENS' Semi-Finals

NIB TORNADES 9 MELB BUFFALOS 0

AS predicted, the Bankstown NIB Tornadoes advanced to the grand final of the Buffalo Sports National Womens' Indoor Soccer League with an outstanding victory at the State Sports Centre Home-bush last Friday night.

In a totally one-sided affair in which the Tornadoes could easily have doubled their score, they went 1-0 up in the first minute through Teresa McCann.

Julie Dolan (2), Kim Lembyrk and Cindy Heydon added to the score to give the Tornadoes an unbeatable 5-0 lead.

And the rout continued in the second half with Lembyrk scoring in

the 2nd and 3rd minutes to take the score to 7-0.

Even with the minor premiers relaxing towards the end, they still scored another two goals through Sharon Young.

TORNADES: Cooperthwaite 5, Young 5, McCann 4, Dolan 6, Lembyrk 7, Heydon 6, Sein 4, McCully 4, Fabian 5.

BUFFALOS: Jones 7, Davies 4, Contos 4, Church 5, Warren 5, Kinmont 5, Schneider 4.

SCORERS: Lembyrk (3), Dolan (2), Young (2), Heydon, McCann for Tornadoes.

REFEREE: Mark Cotter (Sydney) 7.

SYD STRIKERS 4 BRIS BAYSIDERS 3

IN the other semi-final, the Sydney Strikers were very lucky to escape with a less than impressive victory against the Brisbane Baysiders.

In a match that seemed certain to be over before the half-time break, the Strikers struggled in the second half and were caught on the back foot on most

occasions.

They took a two-goal lead early in the match with Leanne Edmundson starring for the Strikers.

But Edmundson did falter in extending the lead to three when she blazed her penalty shot wide.

The Brisbane team fought back and after Jaylene Janssen scored in the 9th minute, the Strikers were put under some pressure by the Queenslanders.

Julie Hebb, who has been missing for the Strikers in the last few matches, made her mark with two goals just before the interval.

The score was 4-1 to the Strikers.

The Brisbane team put all the pressure on the Strikers and were rewarded with two goals in a minute through Janssen and 16-year-old Tanya Corbett.

Brisbane were unlucky not to equalise in the final few minutes when Janssen struck a rocket like shot which rattled the crossbar in the 18th minute, and Corbett had beaten everyone but the far post with two seconds to go.

STRIKERS: Schaefer 6, Hebb 5, Hyde 4, Komorowski 5, Huntington 5, Brown 4, Edmundson 5.

BRISBANE: S. Clayton 7, V. Clayton 5, Janssen 6, Corbett 6, Patterson 4, Humphreys 4, Soppa 5.

SCORERS: Edmundson (2), Hebb (2) for Strikers, Janssen (2), Corbett for Brisbane.

REFEREE: Ray McCluskey (Melbourne) 8.

MENS' Semi-Finals

WHITE EAGLES 10 NIB TORNADES 7

IN the James Hardie National Indoor Soccer League, the White Eagles continued with their run of victories over the Bankstown NIB Tornadoes with another victory last Friday.

Even with Glen Jef-

frey scoring in the second minute, continuing his form from the Pacific Cup in Mexico, the Eagles hit back in the next minute through Mirko Radosavljevic.

In the fourth minute Jeffrey scored another goal from a long throw by Steve Knight to chip Dragan Pupovac in the Eagles goal.

Milan Blagojevic equalised to take the score to 2-2 with only four minutes elapsed.

In a high-scoring semi final, the first half ended 7-3 to the Eagles, with Mirko Radosavljevic (2), Radovan Filipovic (2), and Vince Nastoski, for the Eagles, and Jeffrey collecting his hat-trick three minutes before the break.

In the second half, Nastoski scored in the 9th minute and that was their only goal for the next 11 minutes.

During that period of time, Kelly Cross came on and blasted four goals in a brilliant performance of skill and possession by the Rosebery Portugal player coach.

Radosavljevic and Blagojevic netted the other two goals for the Eagles to give them a comprehensive win.

EAGLES: Pupovac 6, Blagojevic 7, Filipovic 6, Radosavljevic 8, Nastoski 6, Radvic 4.

TORNADES: Psaroudis 6, Knight 5, Stuart 5, Jeffrey 7, White 4, Cross 8.

SCORERS: Radosavljevic (4), Blagojevic (2), Filipovic (2), Nastoski (2) for Eagles, Cross (4), Jeffrey (3) for Tornadoes.

REFEREE: Mario Siketa (Melbourne) 5.

W SYD SWANS 5 MELB BUFFALOS 1

In the other semi-final, the Western Sydney Swans progressed to the grand final to meet rivals White Eagles after defeating last season's champion.

It was a repeat of last year's grand final as the Buffalos beat the Spartans in a close final.

There was nothing close in this match as Brett Duval showed when he scored two goals in the opening quarter of an hour.

Ercan Osman made it 3-0 when he intercepted a Buffalos build-up and went on to score.

The second half saw Charlie Akkary put away a spectacular goal with his left foot which flew sweetly into the top far corner past Flaminio Lopez.

Boris Atanasovski collected the consolation goal for the Buffalos in the 13th minute, which he thoroughly deserved.

Two minutes from time Kenny Wilson sent the defending champions crashing out of the competition when he scored to make it 5-1.

SWANS: Thurlow 7, Ercan Osman 6, B. Duval 6, S. Duval 5, Erkin Osman 6, Dene 4, Akkary 5, Wilson 5.

BUFFALOS: Lopez 5, Carvalho 6, Metaxas 4, Cristaldo 4, Atanasovski 6, Ribiero 4, Ibeas 4, Hackett 4.

SCORERS: B. Duval (2), Ercan Osman, Wilson for Swans, Atanasovski for Buffalos.

WOMENS' Grand Final

NIB TORNADES 8 SYD STRIKERS 3

IN the womens' grand final, the Bankstown NIB Tornadoes came through a nervous 10-minute start to swamp the Sydney Strikers on Saturday night and become undefeated champions of 1989.

Julie Hebb opened the scoring for the Strikers in the 5th minute, Kim Lembyrk equalised two minutes later, and Hebb scored again in the 8th minute to take the Strikers into a 2-1 lead.

But from that moment the Strikers were put on the back foot for the rest of the game and were down 5-2 at the break.

Lembyrk notched her fifth goal in the 15th minute and her superb team raced to an 8-2 lead.



Ercan Osman celebrates

Debbie Hyde collected the consolation goal of the half for the Strikers, but it was all too late.

The Tornadoes were worthy winners of the championship.

TORNADES: Cooperthwaite 4, McCann 5, Heydon 6, Lembyrk 7, Dolan 6, Young 5, Sein 4, McCully, Fabian.

STRIKERS: Schaefer 5, Komorowski 4, Hebb 6, Edmundson 4, Huntington 5, Brown 4, Hyde 5, McCarthy 4, Downie, Nash.

SCORERS: Lembyrk (5), Young (2), McCann for Tornadoes, Hebb (2), Hyde for Strikers.

REFEREE: John Majors (Queensland) 7.

MENS' Grand Final

W SYD SWANS 9 WHITE EAGLES 6

THE Western Sydney Swans took out their first championship by defeating the White Eagles at the State Sports Centre in front of a crowd of over 3,500 last Saturday night.

And it was a well deserved effort as last year they were beaten in the

final (as Parramatta Spartans) by the Melbourne Buffalos.

Brett Duval started the goal flow in a high-scoring match with two goals in the opening two minutes.

Though it was the Eagles' first finals appearance, they wanted the title more than anything.

And with Mirko Radosavljevic in brilliant form, he and Vince Nastoski levelled the scores five minutes later.

In their previous meetings this year, the scores were 3-2 (Swans) and 3-3.

A feast of goals were to come.

Radovan Filipovic and Radosavljevic took the score to 4-3 with Steve Duval netting the Swans' other goal of the half.

In the first half the Duvals were inspirational, as they were in the semis.

But the second half of the final saw the Osman brothers come out of their hatch to blitz the Eagles.

Nastoski and Radosavljevic for the Eagles, Ercan Osman (3) for the Swans had the scores locked at 6-6.

As extra-time looked a certainty with three minutes remaining, the Swans took the game to the Eagles.

Steve Duval and the two Osmans scored in the final minutes of the half to help win the trophy for the minor premiers, who had only lost one game all season.

There was no one more excited than Erkin Osman, captain of the Swans, who had just come back from Mexico with the Pacific Cup winners' medal, and now the championship title in the same week.

It was also the Osmans' fifth consecutive grand final. They have now won four and lost one. Some achievement!

SWANS: Thurlow 6, S. Duval 7, B. Duval 7, Erkin Osman 8, Ercan Osman 8, Wilson 5.

EAGLES: Rodic 4, Filipovic 5, Radosavljevic 8, Blagojevic 6, Radovic 5, Nastoski 7, Pupovac 5.

SCORERS: Ercan Osman (3), Erkin Osman (2), S. Duval (2), B. Duval (2) for the Swans; Radosavljevic (3), Nastoski (2), Filipovic for Eagles.

REFEREE: Ray McCluskey (Melbourne) 9.



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PACIFIC CUP PTS TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	4	3	1	0	20	10	7
Costa Rica	4	2	1	1	8	8	5
Mexico	4	1	2	1	6	6	4
Canada	4	1	0	3	10	13	2
United States	4	1	0	3	6	13	2

Results

ROUND 1: Australia 3 (Stuart, Knight, Carvalho) def Costa Rica 0, USA 1 (Tittinger) def Mexico 0. **ROUND 2:** Mexico 2 (F. Vega, C. Hernandez) def Canada 1 (De Marco), Costa Rica 3 (Roy 2, Jimenez) def USA 1 (Tittinger). **ROUND 3:** Canada 2 (Montagliani, Best) def USA 1 (Salinas), Australia 3 (Knight 2, Carvalho) drew with Mexico 3 (Lince, F. Vega, C. Hernandez). **ROUND 4:** Australia 6 (Carvalho 2, Jeffrey 2, Atanasovski, Osman) def Canada 4 (Boulton 2, Gasparac, De Marco), Mexico 1 (Gutierrez) drew with Costa Rica 1 (Ponas). **ROUND 5:** Costa Rica 4 (Roy 3, Gonzalez) def Canada 3 (Gasparac 3), Australia 8 (Jeffrey 2, Stuart 2, Atanasovski 2, Osman 2) def USA 3 (Luczynski 2, Lejnecks). **SEMI FINALS:** Costa Rica 3 (Marin 2, Gonzalez) def Mexico 2 (C. Hernandez, Mosqueda), Australia 3 (Jeffrey 3) def Canada 2 (Montagliani 2). **FINAL:** Australia 3 (Jeffrey 2, Knight) def Costa Rica 1 (Roy). **THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF:** Mexico 2 (Gutierrez 2) def Canada 1 (Montagliani).

Top Scorers

Diego Roy (Costa Rica) 5, Glen Jeffrey, Fortunato Carvalho (Australia), John Gasparac (Canada) 4, Boris Atanasovski, Robbie Stuart, Steve Knight, Erkin Osman (Australia) 3, Jorge Tittinger, Decio Leczynski (USA), Federico Vega, Carlos Hernandez (Mexico), Dominic De Marco, D'Arcy Boulton (Canada) 2, Ricardo Ponas, Miguel Jimenez, Jose Gonzalez (Costa Rica), Cesar Lince, Luis Gutierrez (Mexico), Victor Montagliani, Martin Best (Canada), Greg Lejnecks, Mario Salinas (USA) 1.

Pacific Cup Final
page 18

The decade in review

FRANK SCICLUNA REVIEWS THE 80S AND LOOKS AHEAD

THE recently commenced 1989/90 summer season marks the beginning of a new decade for Australian soccer, one which should develop into a catalyst for launching the code into the 21st century.

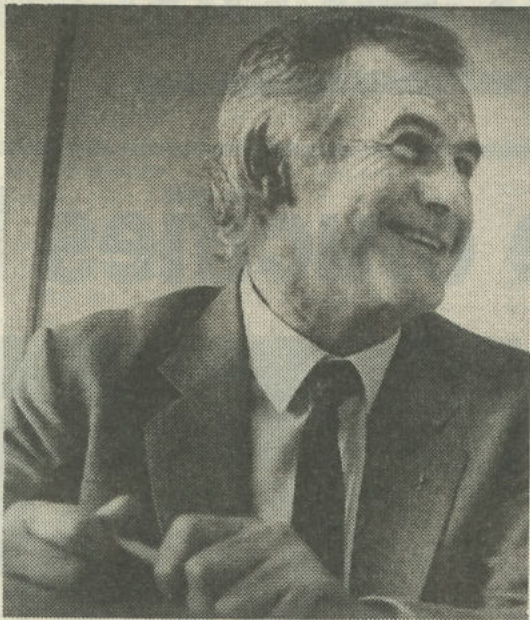
As we look forward with hope of a new positive direction for the game, we should also stop and reflect for one moment on some of the high and low points of the decade about to end.

Despite a large number of very real problems facing soccer, the eighties did manage to produce a certain amount of progress on which the game's development can be built. By far the most encouraging aspect to come out of this past decade has been the emergence of some tremendous locally produced talent which has completely changed the face of Australian football.

While most of our leading clubs — and for that matter, our national team, were largely made up of players imported from the lower divisions of Europe and to a lesser extent South America, the wheel has now just about turned full circle.

Not only has the decade ended with a high proportion of Australian born and bred footballers leading the way at club and international level, the game is now even exporting its talent to the same countries from which many of our imports used to come from.

While this emergence of our playing talent was so significant,



FRANK AROK — Coach of the Decade.

cant in the eighties, soccer is on the verge of taking its progress into the nineties one step further.

The last few years have produced a definite trend towards the use of local coaches by our leading clubs, rather than relying on imported ones.

When Marconi boss

COACH OF THE DECADE — FRANK AROK

Arok was only successful in winning one championship with St George in 1983 against Eddie Thomson's hat trick with Sydney City and Berti Mariani's two titles at Marconi, but his long tenure with the Saints and his achievements at international level gives Arok a possible slight edge.

Berti Mariani became the first Australian born coach to lead his club to an NSL championship in 1988, the die was well and truly cast.

Others are beginning to follow and there's little doubt that the success obtained in producing local players in the eighties will continue into the coaching arena in the nineties.

It's simply a matter of natural progression.

On the national team front, soccer fans were

forced to endure a frustrating decade of mixed emotions.

From that infamous day at the old Sydney Cricket Ground on May 16 1981 when New Zealand ruined all Rudi Gutendorf's hopes of leading the Socceroos to Spain in 1982 and ended his own turbulent era in

Australian soccer, to the exhilarating 4-1 defeat of world champions Argentina in the Bicentennial Gold Cup

PLAYER OF THE DECADE — JOHN KOSMINA

John Kosmina's record with the Socceroos and at club level during the eighties speaks for itself. Numerous players come into contention but it's hard to go past Kossie.



JOHN KOSMINA

tournament on July 14 World Youth Championships to Aus-

In between those two extremes, the Socceroos went from the depth of losing against a rag tag Fiji outfit in a preliminary World Cup qualifier to the heights of beating the much fancied Yugoslavia in the Seoul Olympics.

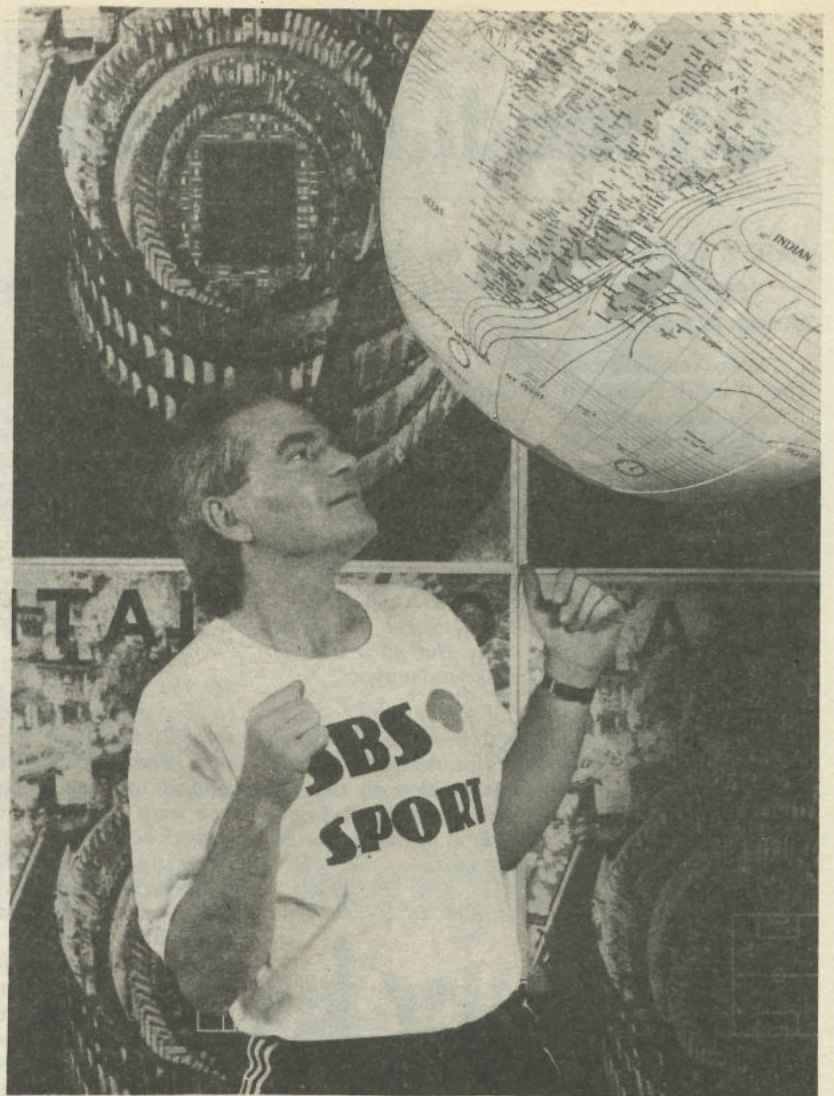
But perhaps the most meaningful and satisfying result achieved by the Socceroos in the eighties was their 2-1 victory over Israel in Tel Aviv in the 1985 World Cup Oceania group qualifier.

While the importance of beating Argentina and Yugoslavia should not be underestimated, that magnificent defeat of arch rivals Israel in the white hot atmosphere of World Cup battle in front of 50,000 fanatical and hostile Israelis brought Australia to within a whisker of making the finals for the first time since 1974.

Only blatant politics by FIFA which forced that unnecessary play off against Scotland and incidentally another unforgettable night at Olympic Park in that second leg scoreless draw, kept the Socceroos from taking their place in Mexico.

The eighties also saw our youngsters making their mark at international level.

When FIFA awarded the 1981



LES MURRAY — his SBS network's coverage of soccer was a major highlight of the 1980s.

MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENT FOR SOCCER IN THE 80s — SBS Television

The birth of SBS television in 1980 has given soccer fans in Australia a thorough coverage which is comparable to if not better than anywhere in the world. I sometimes wonder if we don't take what SBS is doing for soccer too much for granted. The impact that it must have on the development of youngsters is impossible to gauge but it must be immense. Thank God for Dominic Galati, Les Murray and their crew.

least the gap is slowly but surely becoming narrower.

The biggest dilemma facing soccer in the nineties is surely the stagnation of our National League.

It is simply going nowhere and few will argue that little progress has been made since its introduction in 1977.

Thousands of words have been written and said as to where the core of the problem lies.

All these negatives can be overcome by

tor facilities, one thing is absolutely certain.

Unless the league recognises and acts upon this obvious flaw in its own make up, then drags its member clubs along with it, the situation can hardly be expected to be any better by the turn of the century.

The time for band aid cures has long been and gone.

Our premier league is slowly suffocating and no one seems to be prepared to make a meaningful effort to save it.

Hit and miss attempts at short term solving are all that anyone can offer when what is so desperately needed is a virtual rebirth.

The cruel irony in all of this is that while our soccer is slowly moving forward towards international respectability, our leading domestic league is being allowed to die on its feet.

MOST PROGRESSIVE CLUB OF THE DECADE — MARCONI

Marconi has arguably achieved more in the last three years both on and off the field, than any other club during the entire decade. It is now without doubt the club has set the standards for others to follow into the nineties.

has without doubt come a long way in the last ten years.

We're still far from ready to mix it successfully with the traditional giants of soccer just yet, but at

businesslike, aggressive administration.

Whether it's the lack of marketing and promotion, the ethnic image of the game, unfavourable media or the shortage of specta-

MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUB OF THE DECADE — SOUTH MELBOURNE

Souths' record in the NSL during the eighties just shades that of Marconi, even though the Bossley Park club has won the championship twice against South Melbourne's only title in 1984.

The now defunct Sydney City has got an even better percentage over the seven seasons it played in until 1986, but is overtaken by both Souths and Marconi over the full decade.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
South Melbourne	264	127	71	66	325
Marconi	264	115	69	80	299
Sydney City	186	110	45	31	265

NSL CHAMPIONSHIPS — Sydney City 3 in 1980, 1981, 1982
Marconi — 2 in 1988, 1989,
South Melbourne — 1 in 1984,

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THIS year's match between the European and South American champions is the tenth in the Toyota Cup series.

Colombia's Atletico Nacional de Medellin comes from a country never before represented in the Cup, while its opponent, AC Milan, is the first European club to play in Tokyo which has won the Intercontinental trophy in its old format.

SBS TV, your World Cup station, will telecast live the big game on Sunday, December 17 from 1.45pm.

Atletico Nacional will be seeking to emulate their namesakes, Club Nacional de Futbol of Montevideo, winner of the 1988 Toyota Cup.

While it is the first time that the Colombian team has made

it to Tokyo, AC Milan is the second Italian club after Juventus, winners in 1985 against Argentinos Juniors of Argentina.

Last year's winner, Nacional of Montevideo, was victorious in the Toyota Cup in 1980 with a 1-0 win over Nottingham Forest of England.

In December 1981, Flamengo of Brazil, inspired by the great Zico, defeated Liverpool 3-0.

In 1982, another English team was unsuccessful in its bid to win the Cup.

Penarol of Uruguay, with a goal scored by Brazilian midfielder Jair and the other from Walkir Silva, won the match 2-0.

Gremio of Porto Alegre, Brazil, won the Cup for South America for the fourth consecutive time in 1983.

The Brazilians again

Live on SBS-TV

Toyota Cup

MARIO A. ETCHART PREVIEWS

smashed European hopes with a 2-1 win in extra time over West Germany's Hamburg SV.

Gremio's hero was striker Renatof, who scored both goals.

Liverpool's return to Tokyo in 1984 was no more successful than their first attempt in 1981.

Independiente of Argentina maintained South American supremacy with 1-0 victory, from a goal scored by Percudani. It was the first Argentine victory in Japan.

Triumph came Europe's way — after

five years — in 1985. Italian club Juventus, inspired by the French superstar, Michel Platini, snatched a dramatic victory over Argentinos Juniors.

A penalty shoot-out was required before Juventus finally took the Cup to Europe.

In 1986, six months after Argentina won the World Cup in Mexico, River Plate rounded off a great year for Argentine soccer by getting back the world club title for South America.

Uruguayan international Antonio Alzamendi scored the

only goal of the match against a surprise European champion, Steaua Bucharest. But in 1987 Europe



FRANK RIJKAARD

claimed its second Toyota Cup when Porto of Portugal won an incredible match in a snowstorm against Penarol of Uruguay. Madjer converted the winner for the Portuguese in extra time.

Last year, it was Nacional of Uruguay again, snatching their win from Dutch PSV Eindhoven with an equaliser in the closing seconds of extra time and then winning in an

extraordinary penalty shoot-out marathon. The match lasted almost three hours.

With seven South American victories against two from the Europeans, the South American representatives have become the logical favourites.

Now AC Milan come to challenge that South American dominance. The likes of Marco van Basten, Frank Rijkaard, Franco Baresi, Giovanni Galli, Paolo Maldini and Roberto Donadoni, among others, will be seeking success where other Europeans previously failed.

For Nacional, proud representative of Colombia as well as the continent, the task is a very daunting one, but the South American record is a respectable one and the Colombians will be looking for glory.

AC MILAN:



GOALKEEPERS: Giovanni Galli, Francesco Antoniloi and Andrea Pazzagli.

DEFENDERS: Stefano Carobbi, Alessandro Costacurta, Filippo Galli, Davide Pinato, Paolo Maldini, Marco Pullo, Mauro Tassotti.

MIDFIELDERS: Carlo Ancelotti, Angelo Colombo, Alberigo Evani, Diego Fuser, Christian Lantigbotti, Daniele Massaro, Frank Rijkaard, Stefano Salvatori, Massimiliano Verga.

STRIKERS: Roberto Donadoni, Marco Simone, Marco Van Basten. Rudd Gullit is injured and is not included in the squad.

THE EUROPEAN-SOUTH AMERICAN MATCHES

TOYOTA CUP

1980-Nacional (Uruguay) **Runner up:** Notts Forest (Eng)
1981-Flamengo (Brazil) **Runner up:** Liverpool (England)
1982-Penarol (Uruguay) **Runner up:** Aston Villa (England)
1983-Gremio (Brazil) **Runner up:** Hamburg SV (West Germany)
1984-Independiente (Argentina) **Runner up:** Liverpool (England)
1985-Juventus (Italy) **Runner up:** Argentinos Juniors (Argentina)
1986-River Plate (Arg) **Runner up:** Steaua Bucharest (Romania)
1987-Porto FC (Portugal) **Runner up:** Penarol (Uruguay)
1988-Nacional (Uruguay) **Runner up:** PSV Eindhoven (Holland)

TOYOTA CUP MAN OF THE MATCH

1980-Victorino (Nacional) 1985-Platini (Juventus)
1981-Zico (Flamengo) 1986-Alzamendi (River Plate)
1982-Jair (Penarol) 1987-Madjer (FC Porto)
1983-Renato (Gremio) 1988-Ostolaza (Nacional)
1984-Percudani (Independiente)

ATLETICO NACIONAL:

GOALKEEPERS: Rene Higuita, Oscar Cordoba, Oswaldo Duran.

DEFENDERS: John Carmona, Andres Escobar, Gilardo Gomez, Luis Carlos Perez, Felipe Perez, Martin Caicedo, Geovani Cassiani, Hector Cortina, Luis Herrera, Victor Marulanda, Jaime Sierra.

MIDFIELDERS: Leonel Alvarez, Jaime Arango, Luis Fajardo, Alexis Garcia, John Trellez, Ricardo Perez, Gustavo Restrepo, Jose Santa, Luis Suarez, Didi Valderrama.

STRIKERS: Niver Arboleda, Albeiro Uzurriaga, Ivan Castaneda, John Castano, Juan Galeano, Ricardo Rodriguez.

Rene Higuita, Alexis Garcia, Gilardo Gomez, Andes Escobar, Luis Carlos Perea, Leon Villa, Leonel Alvarez, Juan Galeano and Alberto Uzurriaga are members of the Colombian national team.

All Nacional's players are Colombian internationals. The Club never buys foreign players; instead they buy the best Colombian products.

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World Cup 1990 bookings now available

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

ARGENTINA, the current holders of the World Cup and led by mega-star Diego Maradona, will be on centre stage facing Cameroun in Milan as the curtain goes up for the spectacular 1990 World Cup finals in Italy on June 8, at 5am Australian Eastern Standard Time.

And you can be there to see this spectacular soccer bonanza.

C.I.T. World Wide Travel Services, with offices in Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth, still have limited vacancies for one and all wanting to go to the World Cup finals in Italy next year.

Ms Elizabeth Andreotti, C.I.T.'s assistant managing director who is based in the Sydney office, told ASW last night:

"Tickets are only available in Australia through C.I.T..

"We are the sole tour operator for the 1990 World Cup.

"C.I.T. Travel has four tours to Italy

available, ranging from the single opening match, Argentina vs Cameroun in Milan to a massive 16-match tour that includes the final itself."

Ms Andreotti went on to say:

"The most popular tour is the 'Italia Four' package at this stage.

"All our packaged tour prices include match tickets, accommodation, hotel-stadium transfers."

Soccer fans planning on going to the World Cup finals should not hesitate to make their enquiries now, especially since all the six groups were determined last Sunday morning when the official draw was held in Rome.

Want to see the world's soccer superstars in the flesh?

Now is the time to act by contacting your local office of C.I.T. World Wide Travel Service in all capital cities right across Australia.

BE THERE....



Diego Armando Maradona holds the 1986 World Cup trophy aloft at Mexico's Azteca Stadium. Twenty-three teams will be vying for Argentina's crown in Italy.



Brazilian ace Bebeto: he will be starring in Group C in Turin.

1990 WORLD CUP SOCCER

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OF THE WORLD SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

GROUPS				JUNE						
				CITIES	8 FRI	9 SAT	10 SUN	11 MON	12 TUE	13 WED
ITALY	1	A	ROMA			1-2				
AUSTRIA	2		FIRENZE				3-4			
USA	3									
CZECH	4									
ARG	5	B	NAPOLI							5-7
CAMEROUN	6		BARI			7-8				
USSR	7									
ROMANIA	8									
BRAZIL	9	C	TORINO				9-10			
SWEDEN	10		GENOVA					11-12		
COSTA RICA	11									
SCOTLAND	12									
W GERMANY	13	D	MILANO	5-6			13-14			
YUGOSLAVIA	14		BOLOGNA			15-16				
UAE	15									
COLOMBIA	16									
BELGIUM	17	E	VERONA						17-18	
STH KOREA	18		UDINE							
URUGUAY	19									19-20
SPAIN	20									
ENGLAND	21	F	CAGLIARI						21-22	
REP IRE	22		PALERMO							
HOLLAND	23									23-24
EGYPT	24									



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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .



ABBAS SAAD (pictured) needs to learn the lesson that continuing play whilst fighting against stress fractures in his low back will be counter productive. Saad has been holding on following his selection in the national squad, but a rest from football now will do him a lot of good in the long run.

NEW ZEALAND's top goalscorer Noel Barkley was in reasonably good touch when the Premier Series (Top Five) winners Mt Wellington played a friendly game at the Croatian Sports Centre in Sydney last Thursday night.

Barkley, originally from Belfast, has been in New Zealand for seven years.

DAVID HUNTER, younger brother of Sydney Croatia defender Alan Hunter, was voted Player of the Year for Brisbane Lions.

He is definitely a National League quality player, but decided to spurn an offer from Sydney and stay on in Brisbane.

Hunter would be a natural as soon as a Brisbane United side makes the NSL.

SYDNEY CROATIA has many further stars coming up through the ranks. Tom Milicevic

and Andrew French are handy prospects, and they have been trying out striker Shane Williams.



Martin Reusch, of goalkeeping glove fame, poses with goalies John Filan (left) and Dragan Pupovac — both, of course, sporting the famed Reusch equipment.

DAVID BATTEN, Wollongong City's 1989 summer season gain, is really delighted with the prospects at the club.

"David Ratcliffe is turning us into a side that will do extremely well.

"The ball is going to a player's feet and we are developing a style that will bring the fans out to watch us.

"Marconi has a lead, having put their act together a few years earlier, but we have the ability to catch up," he said.

STEVE GOJEVIC, the midfielder who joined Sydney Croatia from Heidelberg for a \$12,000 documented release fee, is wondering what Sydney is all about.

"All I've seen is rain so far, after missing matches due to the difficulty with the VSF over my release," he said.

JERRY MURPHY, the former Republic of Ireland midfielder who appeared in the English League with Chelsea and Crystal Palace, could be a winner.

He showed absolute class in the Blacktown City youth team last year, and could be the Wollongong gain of the year.

PARRAMATTA Melita's Len Vial has un-

happily, something in common with Blacktown City's Geoff Gunning.

Both suffered very severe injuries in motor accidents, but have returned to play again in the National Soccer League.

Despite initial threats of legal action by Brunswick Juventus against South Melbourne Hellas over the 'loan' transfer of Mike Petersen to Middle Park, the former NSL club has finally cleared the way for Petersen to go to Middle Park on a permanent basis.

But in an unusual transfer deal, Juventus agreed to lower the Socceroo midfielder's transfer fee from \$35,000 to \$20,000 on the basis that homeless Juve is allowed to use Middle Park as a home base for the 1990 State League season.

South Melbourne, Brunswick and State League Caulfield City will use the ground next year, leaving Olympic Park vacant.

Relegated Heidelberg is chasing Brunswick Juventus stars Wille Herd and Fausto Di Amicis.

The Bergers are also interested in transfer-listed Melbourne Croatia defender Stuart Cannell.

Melbourne Croatia has decided against signing South Australian goalkeeper Colin Miller from Adelaide Hellas.

Former Victorian Rothmans Medal winner Martin Woodall has rejoined his first Aussie club, Preston Makedonia.

Midfielder Woodall, who had another outstanding year in the Victorian State League in 1989, joined Preston back in 1986 before returning to the UK.

On returning he joined Northcote City and won the 1988 Rothmans Medal for best State League player.

SEAN LAHIFF is back in Sydney during the Finnish off-season. The young First Division Koparit goalkeeper has settled in well in the land of the midnight sun and

is a crowd favourite.

Lahiff's knowledge of Finnish football came handy last week when he was able to supply added information on SBS' World Soccer main match — Holland v Finland.

Former Melbourne JUST, South Melbourne Hellas and Melbourne Croatia star Kenny Murphy has taken over as player-coach at Victorian State League club Thomastown.

The gritty midfielder replaces former Marconi champion Roberto Vieri, who quit the Thomastown post to

Federation.

"My electorate includes two leading Newcastle Soccer Clubs — Highfields Azzurri and Adamstown Rosebud," he proudly pointed out to ASW at a recent function held in Parliament House in Sydney.

A recent National Youth League game in Melbourne had to be called off.

It seems that the pitch was a swamp because someone had forgotten to turn off the sprinkler system!

SYDNEY OLYMPIC has been continuing to make strides with col-

month. Reports that Mariani, the youngest NSW coach ever, is being groomed as Frank Arok's successor when the Socceroo boss' contract expires in June 1990, are premature to say the least.

NEW national director of coaching, Eddie Thomson, has returned from his first official overseas trip — a one-week stint in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. He says the set-up in Malaysia was an eye-opener. Thomson will push for more contacts between the two countries as he believes the standard in Asia has



This string of white-shirted Greek defenders was powerless to prevent Scotland's third goal in the first Canberra Ethnic World Cup final at the Marco Polo Ground, Queanbeyan. Scotland went on to win 4-2 with goals from Jack Doherty (2), Peter Thomson, and Brian Johnstone. Peter Mazis and Jim Velanis scored for Greece. Croatia beat England 5-0 in the final of the over-35 competition with four goals to Nick Bostov and one to Ivan Grivic.

take up the coaching job at Brunswick Juventus.

Juventus appointed Vieri, who had initially indicated he would stay on after half a season at Thomastown, in place of Billy Rogers.

Rogers was given the nod by the previous administration following Manfred Schaefer's return to Sydney.

Defender Manny Anzakis has left South Melbourne Hellas after being told he could not be guaranteed a place in the team.

RICHARD FACE, member for the NSW electorate of Charles-town, has had a long interest in soccer.

He is a patron of the Northern NSW Soccer

lections from supporters to pay St George for the transfer of Scott Ollerenshaw.

In other news, it is quite possible that Peter Katholos will return to the club from Marconi for the 1990/91 season.

GEORGE BOUHOUTSOS is enjoying his football with Panathinaikos in Greece.

The club regards him as the goalkeeper of the future, and it is possible he will be lent out to another First Division club to improve his experience.

BERTI MARIANI will coach the NSW team in their match against Torpedo Moscow at Wollongong next

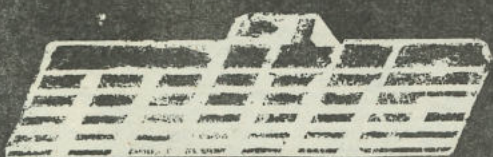
never been higher.

SBS-TV is negotiating with France's TF 1 network for exclusive Australian rights of its trendsetting Tele-Foot programme.

The 15-minute show highlights all the weekend's French First Division games and is rated, by far, the most innovative soccer programme in the world.

It is seen, and highly praised, in Europe and South America for its incredible close-ups and fabulous camera work.

With 14 cameras set up all over field, most of the shots, filmed from every angle, are breathtakingly spectacular.



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Sermanni to coach Canberra Croatia

BY GRAHAM COOKE

CANBERRA Croatia has re-appointed player-coach Tom Sermanni for the 1990 NSW Soccer League season.

Director of soccer Mirko Skrnjug made the announcement after completing negotiations with Sermanni, who took over when Jimmy Shoulder left for England last June.

The decision ends several weeks of speculation following Croatia's decision to advertise the post at the end of the season.

Also reappointed is youth team coach Ivan Gruic but Steve Darby, who came on to the staff as Sermanni's assistant after Shoulder's departure, has not been reappointed.

And Skrnjug said he himself would fill the crucial off-field role of team manager.

"We are happy to make the announcement that Tom has been retained," Skrnjug said. "We will

now be moving quickly to get the club ready for the next season.

"We will be meeting with some of the players and Tom will outline his pre-season training requirements."

Sermanni said the emphasis would be on fitness.

"You can expect those players who have not kept themselves in trim since the end of the season to be doing some hard work.

"You cannot expect optimum fitness with a part-time set-up such as we have at Croatia but the closer we get the better it is.

"Next season's team cannot just be one capable of winning the NSW State League — it must also be capable of immediately moving on into the NSL.

"I am not interested in players who are not prepared to set themselves that kind of target."

Asked about his playing future, Sermanni said he would be training to match

fitness "and if I consider that of necessity I should play, I will.

"On the other hand, if there is someone who can do a better job, or even as good a job as I can, then he will get the nod."

Midfielder Sermanni, a veteran of the club's NSL days, first took over as coach in succession to Augusto Palacios in January, 1988.

He played a key role in holding things together in the dark days of the following season when the club almost went out of existence, then stepped down to become Shoulder's assistant that December.

After Shoulder left for a top position in English soccer last June Sermanni returned to his old job, steering Croatia to the runner-up position behind Melita Eagles.

Gruic took over as youth coach early in 1989, guiding his young charges to the club's most successful season in the competition.



The NSW League board in the background shows that Canberra Croatia finished second in 1989, but there was one competition in which the club was a clear winner — the inaugural Fair Play Shield for teams with the least number of send-offs and cautions in the season. Here director of soccer Mirko Skrnjug (left) celebrates the achievement with player-coach Tom Sermanni at the Croatian Deakin Club.

(Picture Courtesy CANBERRA TIMES)

MAKE YOUR COMPARISONS!

NSL FIRST YEAR FIGURES

1977 was the first year of the National Soccer League, then known as the Philips Soccer League of Australia, with Philips Industries as the lead sponsor.

Printed above are the "reported" home attendances, as listed by then manager John T. Frank in a publication issued to list the highlights of the season.

Although Mr Frank was obviously not endorsing the correctness of the figures, even attendances anywhere near the top ones recorded then would be greeted with unbridled joy in 1989/90.

That year the NSL estimated that the teams were called upon to travel a grand total of 163,520 miles (or some 272,500 kilometres).

Taking an average 16-person party, that amounted to 4,360,500 passenger kilometres.

Repeat Torpedo visit brings back memories

BY LOU GAUTIER

TORPEDO Moscow's visit to Australia early next year brings back memories of their previous tour of Australia in 1965.

The Torpedo tour was full of Russian melodrama sprinkled with local administrative bungling...already.

Even on the eve of their arrival, early in February, the Muscovites were wrapped in secrecy — no doubt a legacy of the cold war which then was at its height — as though they were delegates to a disarmament conference instead of footballers setting out for a series of friendly games.

When finally they arrived, one could begin to understand the reason for their lack of proper communications beforehand; especially those could read the complex pre-glasnost Russian mind.

Within a few days it was obvious that Torpedo came minus their greatest attractions.

Missing were the Soviet Union's big star of that era, midfielder Voronin, and their equally world-class striker Ivanov.

But also missing were several other big guns — stopper Shustikov and forwards Mikhailov and Strelzov.

Naturally, their reserve-ridden side failed to click properly and even though they did show Australians some attractive, intelligent football, they never looked like 'exploding' as did some earlier touring teams.

The contrast between Torpedo and a few months later that same year Chelsea was very pronounced.

Torpedo relied on a precise, one-paced, almost monotonous



ATTI ABONYI — played against Torpedo in 1965.

push-and-run while Chelsea, whose team in 1965 included goalkeeper Peter Bonetti, Terry Venables, Bobby Tambling, Hinton, Harris and a very young Peter Osgood, settled down to give local crowds a glimpse of English League football.

Frankly, neither was what Australian fans, starved for so long of international football (FIFA's five-year ban on Australia had only been lifted 12 months earlier) had envisaged and maybe a combination of the two would have been the riotous success one had visualised.

Even so, Torpedo goalkeeper Kavazashvili, who succeeded the great Lev Yahin in the USSR national team for a while, defender Andreyuk, left winger Sergeyev and especially central defender Brednev created an im-

pression.

Torpedo won friends with their on-field sportsmanship and were rated the cleanest overseas side ever to visit our shores up to that time.

Torpedo showed then that discipline was possible in the highly competitive world of international football; also that tough bodily contacts, heavy tackling, tripping and indiscriminate charging were giving way to skill, brains and technical polish.

For the record, this was the NSW line-up which held Torpedo to a 1-1 draw in front of 25,000 spectators at the Sydney Showground: Rhodes, Edwards, Hughes, Hetherington, Woods, Tamandl, Scheinflug, Blitz, Ninaus, Gauto (Bischoff), Reynolds (Pearson).

Australian soccer has certainly come a long way in the development of home-grown talent in the last 25 years.

Victoria were beaten twice by the Soviets — 4-0 and 4-1 — before crowds of 25,000 and 16,500 respectively at Olympic Park and their line-up read: Grosz, Shepherd, Mantarakes, Auchie, van Alphen, Micic, Abonyi (McMeechan), Blue, Mandalis, Goldie (Jurecki), Kowalec.

Hammy McMeechan scored for Victoria.

In other tour matches, the visitors defeated a combined Australian XI 2-0 in Perth (attendance 12,000); Queensland 1-0 (15,000) and South Australia 3-0 (15,300).

Organisers of next year's visit would be delighted if the Muscovites attracted half those numbers in January and February.

Torpedo will come to Australia after finishing fifth in the recently concluded USSR championship.

They have again qualified for next season's UEFA Cup after being eliminated by Grasshopper of Zurich in the second round this season.

Unlike 1965, they are expected to come with a near full-strength team.

They only have one player in the current USSR national squad but they are well endowed with highly polished players who will, I am sure, be a pleasure to watch.

Home match attendances

These were the reported home attendances at the 1977 Philips Soccer League matches:

	TOTAL	AVERAGE	HIGHEST	LOWEST
ADELAIDE CITY	99,732	7,671	13,132	3,000
BRISBANE CITY	70,152	5,396	6,500	3,500
BRISBANE LIONS	50,200	3,861	7,300	2,000
CANBERRA CITY	23,150	1,780	2,700	1,300
EASTS HAKOAH	26,338	2,026	6,115	400
FITZROY	65,000	5,000	14,000	2,000
FOOTSCRAY	38,700	2,976	8,000	1,000
MARCONI	42,952	3,304	9,500	1,470
MOOROOLBARK	13,450	1,084	5,000*	500
ST GEORGE	25,936	1,995	5,482*	620
SOUTH MELBOURNE	57,700	4,438	15,000	2,000
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	48,482	3,729	6,300	1,025
WEST ADELAIDE	71,779	5,521	12,328	2,300
WESTERN SUBURBS	22,072	1,697	7,253	521
Total:	655,643	3,602		

Highest attendances:

15,000: South Melbourne v St George

14,000: Fitzroy v South Melbourne

13,132: Adelaide City v Marconi

12,328: West Adelaide v Adelaide City

11,300: Adelaide City v Western Suburbs

10,125: Adelaide City v West Adelaide

10,000: South Melbourne v Fitzroy

Dulwich Hill to aim for the top

BY PAUL GOODWIN

ALTHOUGH the Madeira club had prided itself on winning the title and with it promotion almost every year since it entered the Federation and only finished fourth in 1989, the club can look back on the season just completed with some satisfaction.

In tackling the tougher Second Division for the first time, the Portuguese-supported side had to do without their leading marksman from the previous year — Dennis Duarte, who was destined to ultimately join Granville-Chile and in the process take out the Player of the Year trophy for the Division.

The team had been prolific scorers in the past with 70 goals a common feat in previous seasons, but Brazilian coach Agenor Muniz had to do his best with what was at his disposal.

As things turned out, he eventually had to pull on boots again himself and entered the transfer market in mid-season to secure Jim Ziras as support for his many younger players.

Sergio Barros, only 20 when the season began, took opposition defences apart in the opening games and soon became a marked man.

His skill in the box was a major factor in the Madeira side's early good showings and healthy goal tally, but he was to suffer a crippling knee injury before he could make a lasting contribution and is still seeking medical advice in order to return as a striker next year.

If reports are too gloomy he is determined to play on in his former role as a goalkeeper which he carried off successfully in the past.

The team performed consistently all year, although missing a regular scorer and still managed some top performances. Versatility was the keynote, with



AGENOR MUNIZ

Muniz himself the engineer of so many winning efforts.

With Barros missing, Zjelko Beres was less effective up front and Chris Harris became somewhat subdued and the goals began to come from almost everyone except the front-runners.

Beres stepped back into the defence to great effect and Muniz now believes that this 27-year-old is his best player in the new stopper's role. Until Beres moved into that position Kevin Gaffney had done a top job, but he adapted to sweeper just as well to form a very stable central defence.

Zaja Jabriel was another to really mature in 1989 in the midfield and is keenly sought for another campaign. Wilson Barros returned from Portugal to take a place in the side vacated by his injured brother and began to really look the part on the right flank late in the season.

The introduction of flame-haired Ian Gillan to the left back position worked well and if the former Warringah player can manage the trip from his new Central Coast base he can remain part of Muniz's plans for next term.

Jim Ziras, a vastly experienced former Sydney Olympic and Yugal player, was recruited to do both a creative and

defensive job and to lead the team, but found himself in the unusual centre-forward spot at the close, a position he appeared to relish.

Highlights of 1989 included a 2-1 win at Fairy Meadow when the team came from a goal down and the 3-2 win at Sydney Macedonia when the same thing occurred.

The club took part in a tournament organised by the Sydney Macedonia club, which concluded recently and won the \$3000 first prize, going through undefeated and beating the host side 2-1 in the final to repeat their first round scoreline.

The team was bolstered by the inclusion of Nelio Borges, Spiros Hantzis and Marconi da Silva Pereira, all quality players Muniz would like to see involved in his future plans.

The club's players went along to the Presentation Night staged by the Macedonia club at Cabramatta where they received the prizes.

In defeating clubs such as Wollongong Macedonia from First Division 2-1, Rosebery their Portuguese rivals from Division 3 also 2-1 and Arncliffe Macedonia 5-4, the players enjoyed meeting new opponents and proving their ability.

The club is determined to reach the top and has applied for First Division membership.

Before taking a short break the team will take part in another tournament at St George Stadium, in games following the NSL fixtures, which will give Agenor Muniz a chance to run his eye over some more potential players for next year.

It seems likely that the club will play its games next season at Erskineville Oval instead of St George Stadium where continuity was a problem in 1989.

The healthy support shown for this Madeira side should secure it a good future at the highest level of the NSW Soccer Federation.

Part 1

Grounds for concern

BY MIKE JOHNSON

PERIODICALLY, over the years I have gone overseas to study soccer and always have been thrilled by the great players and the great stadiums one encounters.

On returning recently from a short European trip I decided to spend some time going around the National League clubs in Sydney, talking to coaches, watching them work, looking at players, looking at stadiums (??).

Stadiums have been given a question mark because in reality we do not have a 'real' club owned soccer stadium in Sydney if one compares with Europe.

We need to build great soccer stadiums in our cities, just as we need great players to embellish them.

At the moment in Sydney, clubs like St George, Sydney Croatia, and Marconi are on the way to building substantial stadiums for their spectators.

They are also on the way to selling their best players overseas and replacing them with kids and that is not fair to their supporters, nor good enough if we are ever to emerge as a soccer force in this country.



SCOTT OLLERENSHAW — his reported \$40,000 transfer to Sydney Olympic will help keep St George afloat financially.

We cannot stand in the way of young players seeking fame and fortune overseas, but we can use the transfer money from them to bring in established stars from overseas.

The standard of the National League must be improved.

Experienced overseas imports Zlatko Nasteviski and Zeljko Adzic shone like blazing beacons during the 1989 season among a mass of often young Australian talent — many of whom will reach their full potential overseas.

On Wednesday night of last week I visited St George Stadium to watch Frank Arok and Richard Alagich working with their dozen

celebrated apprentices, hand-picked from a selection of hundreds.

The 12 apprentices were asked to do a 12-minute run to test their endurance, or aerobic capacity, to use modern terminology.

Coach Alagich had marked out an exact 400-metre distance around which the boys had to run as many times as possible in 12 minutes.

Several of these 15-year-olds covered two miles in the 12 minutes.

This was some achievement.

Recently, a New Zealand national team coach used two miles as a target for his national team players during a similar 12-minute run.

The leading apprentice in fact ran two miles and two hundred metres before being whistled up after 12 minutes.

Frank Arok wants to make and sell to Europe Australia's first \$1 million player — and he hopes the player might come out of this selected dozen.

After their run, the dozen rested a while under the warming breeze of Arok's caustic tongue, then went on to individual and team skills with Alagich in a 30 x 20 metre enclosed



ZORAN ILIC: a big improver.

The 'Great Australian Stadium' has three sided grass banks for spectators, plus a stand on the fourth side.

The only variation is the size of the stand. Some are pitifully small.

In the case of St George, the stand's size makes it worthy of being granted the status of a stadium, though the rest of the spectator accommodation is not first-class.

The St George apprentices train most nights each week and were on hand two nights after their endurance test to witness the club's first team receive a humiliating drubbing from Melbourne Croatia.

The 1-3 result could easily have turned into the seven-goal rout that featured Saints' previous home game against Marconi.

Yet, strangely, the St George youngsters, goalkeeper Filan, and

strikers Bingley, Krslovic and Illic all played well, with the young front players, especially Illic, showing substantial improvement on last year.

Next year they will again be one year older and one year better — perhaps ready to go overseas and then be replaced by more youngsters, to the disadvantage of St George and of the National League.

Arok had also been hoping to sell his star striker Scott Ollerenshaw overseas, perhaps for as much as \$200,000.

He settled for a reported \$40,000 to Sydney Olympic.

**CONTINUED
NEXT WEEK**

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MELTA'S DILEMMA

A NEW business venture may disrupt the Quit National Soccer League season of Adelaide City skipper Sergio Melta.

But the 14-season veteran will work with City to try to minimise the concern.

Hairdresser Melta now owns a new salon in North Adelaide, and that is where his problems lie.

"For the next 18 months at least I will be concentrating on developing the business," said Melta.

"If the schedule of my work does not fit in with City's NSL commitments I may have to miss a game or two."

"But I've talked with Zoran (coach Matic) about it and we both shall try to be as flexible as possible about it so the soccer side is not disrupted too much. We shall play it by ear. I may not miss any games but the chance is there."

Melta is excited by his business career move and that obviously now is his first priority.

"Soccer in SA and Australia has been good to me and it has been my top priority," said Melta, who has played with City since it joined the national set-up in 1977.

"Now I cannot just look at life on a year to year basis. I must look to my future and, perhaps, soccer will have to take more of a back seat. But I still enjoy playing and am confident City can have a very good year."

— ALAN CLARK

SA BRIEFS

THE SA Soccer Federation is likely to 'get tough' over players playing in charity matches without permission of their club.

In accordance with a by-law, anyone wishing to run a charity benefit match outside normal competition must apply to the SASF giving particulars of the purpose of the match and indicating that clubs have allowed players to play. Players must have their club's approval or could be deemed in breach of contract.

MODBURY could be in the market for three or four players to boost its squad for next season.

Coach Steve Amos had his squad back on the track this week and an announcement is likely soon on the new faces to join the club.

FORMER Para Hills coach Barry Simpson is to lead First Division Amateur League side The Cove next season.

The Cove has gained promotion regularly and eventually hopes to gain Federation status.

It believes Simpson can help achieve that aim.

— ALAN CLARK



Action from last season's NSL promotion play-off in Adelaide between Hellas and Morwell Falcons — JANUSZ KAMMA photo.

Yugoslav guest stars for Adelaide Hellas

BY ALAN CLARK

ADELAIDE Hellas has been recommended a midfielder/striker from Red Star and a striker from Second Division side Rad as guest players from Yugoslavia.

The midfielder, 24, and the 28-year-old striker are interested in coming to Australia and negotiations are going on to bring them out as soon as possible.

Coach Peter Jaksa has talked with Red Star supremo Drago Sekularac about which players are available.

"Both those mentioned reportedly are rated in the \$200,000 class there," said Jaksa. "They are interested in coming and we are talking with the clubs. Others could come if these moves fall."

Jaksa denied Melbourne reports that Adelaide Hellas was interested in Melbourne City JUST winger Bill Lazopoulos.

Steve Witwicki has looked impressive at training and there could be room for negotiation on a swap deal involving import defender Martin Doak.

Doak, Colin Miller, George Konstandopoulos and David Miller have been put on the Hellas transfer list.

In other news as part of its new professional approach, Croatia has launched an ambitious campaign to attract sponsors.

It has developed a sales brochure in which it claims it can help turn sport sponsorship into a sound business investment. In it, the club outlines seven categories of sponsorship from a \$100-plus special membership to a \$10,000-plus executive main sponsor.

"Specific privileges apply with each of the seven groups," said a club spokesman.

"The club's financial executive will give full details but sponsors are assured of high profile exposure."

"With our supporters' strong business connections, we can generate a lot of trade for sponsors."

Croatia has set up a strong organisation system with various sub-committees having responsibility for each facet in the smooth-running of the club.

"Croatia will be a major player in the NSL within three years and when we get there we aim to stay," said the spokesman.

"Management of the club has been handed over to a conglomerate, comprising successful, self-motivated local business people who are familiar with winning and success."

"Taking full advantage of the wide business skills of our club administrators will bring financial stability and ambitious thinking to a sport not renowned for its off field success."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

National coach viewpoint

FRANK Arok's reign as national coach has ushered Australia into somewhat of an initiation to the international arena of football.

Indeed his contribution to the game in Australia virtually rivals that of Rale Rasic, a contribution which significantly took Australia out of the post-qualification doldrums and troubles of the late seventies.

But the over-riding aim of any aspiring football nation must be World Cup qualification success.

The failure of Arok to lead Australia through two successive World Cup campaigns must be given due consideration in the minds of those who appoint the national coach next July.

Consider the statements made by West

Germany's "team chief" Franz Beckenbauer, who took the national side to the 1986 World Cup final, saying that if he failed to lead West Germany to next year's finals he would resign before he could be sacked.

Such is the importance of World Cup qualification.

Yet the inept ASF look like adopting a virtual British-like attitude without view to progress.

After seven years it is now time for a change.

Arok's service to Australian football has been immense, but it is a time for new ideas and innovations.

These would be best provided by a new national team coach.

A. Camo
A. Barbalace
Sydney

Aussie women's further draw

THE Australian women's soccer team recorded another draw against Japan in the Prima Cup in Kanagawa, Japan.

The second match was played at a much faster pace than the first, with the Japanese team determined to play tough football.

Both teams failed to capitalise on chances in the first half with Jane Oakley and Linda Hughes tormenting the Japanese defence.

Julie Murray replaced injured Debbie Nichols in the 50th minute and immediately made an impact on the game.

Murray set up Carol Vinson, who slotted

the ball between the post and the keeper to give Australia the lead.

Japan was awarded a penalty in the 79th minute and Kioka made no mistake to level the score.

Newcomer from Newcastle, Alison Forman, and Queenslanders Sharon Wass and Michelle Sawyers have been consistent performers, while Carol Vinson and Jane Oakley have dominated in attack.



JULIE MURRAY

PICK OF THE POST

Coaching blues

WHEN are we going to learn, and so stop making blunders which further damage the already sick setup of Australian soccer?

I'm referring to the appointment of Eddie Thomson as Director of Coaching.

We all know that what our players need is skill, and at the moment it is very scarce.

Where did Thomson learn his skills in order to pass them on to our local coaches, so

that they can give them to our players.

British soccer is having a lot of problems, because of lack of skills and they know it.

Why on earth do we give such an important job to a person I believe to be an unskilled professional?

You tell me. I simply don't know.

Thank you for a very informative paper, which I read every week.

John De Silva
Stammore NSW 2215

ACT

CANBERRA Juventus has appointed former Inter Monaro boss Walter Valeri as its coach for the 1990 season.

The move, announced by club president Sergio Franchi, means that Valeri is returning to the club which brought him to Canberra from Griffith in the MIA as a teenager 17 years ago.

The former NSL striker said his target was to elevate Juventus to its former position of prominence within ACT soccer.

"And as a first step I will be aiming to restore us to the Ampol Cup top-four competition," he said.

"I am looking forward to the season. I will make a change from the constant travel involved in the NSW State League."

"But that doesn't mean I will be looking for a holiday. I have never given less than a 100 per cent in any job I have undertaken, and nothing is going to change."

"Juventus is a club which wants to go forward. I spent five enjoyable years there at the beginning of my career."

ACT WOMEN

JUVENTUS is looking into the possibility of bringing Australian women's international Angela Ianotta to Canberra.

Club president Sergio Franchi said it might be possible for Ianotta, 19, to be boarded with a family and even found a job should she decide to shift from her home in Albany.

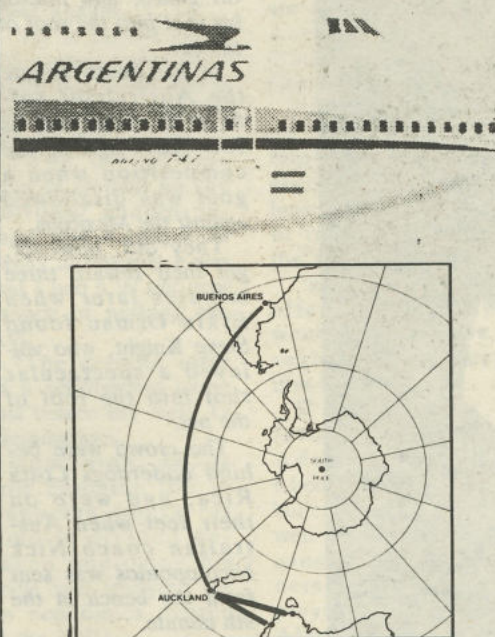
If the move materialises, there is little doubt the talented striker would be the first recruit to the team Juventus hopes to place in the ACTWA competition next season.

— GRAHAM COOKE

The South American Express

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Aussies were worthy Pacific Cup winners

BY JOE DI MEGLIO

WHO TRAVELLED WITH THE TEAM

AUSTRALIA won the Pacific Cup in Mexico last week with a convincing 3-1 win over Costa Rica after being down 1-0 in the final.

Despite all the barriers put up by the Mexican Federation, the whole Australian team made it known that they were here for one thing — to take

appeared to falter in their first match, as did a number of other sides and the USA, after their shock win against Mexico, dropped out of contention and were on the first plane home.

Nick Nicolopoulos, the Australian coach, had said before we left for Mexico that it was the best prepared side he had ever guided as national coach.

The situation with the buses for the team was due to the fact that the federation hadn't arranged any for the Australians until three days after their arrival!

Believe me, you wouldn't fancy risking your life in the hands of Mexico's mad taxi drivers.

Anyway, after the training session, the Australians were wit-

After playing on the rock-clay surface, the Indooroos came out 3-2 winners.

The whole team enjoyed the tour and it was even more enjoyable once Robbie Stuart lifted the trophy on the final night.

The Australians can look back at great performances by the likes of Bruce Thurlow, Robbie Stuart, Glen Jeffrey, Steve Knight and Erkin Osman, the most experienced campaigners, and, of course, Boris Atanasovski, Fortunato Carvalho, Robbie Noggler and George Psaroudis, who as a unit all played outstanding matches during the tough schedule in Mexico.



Indooroo coach Nick Nicolopoulos (left), George Psaroudis and Steve Knight stroll on the main street of Roma, Mexico.



Australia's Pacific Cup-winning squad — All photos on this page by JOE DI MEGLIO.

the trophy back home.

Despite petty and niggling incidents that could have unsettled the Aussies, the Indooroos were fully concentrated on the job of winning the tournament.

The Aussies won because they were prepared mentally and physically and were able to cope with the high altitude of Mexico.

The Canadians

He wasn't too impressed with the training venue for the first practice session as it was a rocklike concrete surface.

Even the long bumpy drive and the sloppy food at the hotel didn't upset any of the Australians.

The second day, the team went to another training session at another venue in taxis driven by madcap drivers.

nessing a local match outside the gymnasium where over 5000 people were present.

The Indooroos were challenged to a match against the likes of Hugo Sanchez with his somersaulting acts after goals.

Surprisingly, the Australians accepted the outdoor challenge without yours truly, as I was watching live Juventus v Napoli back at the hotel.

AUSTRALIA defeated Costa Rica in the final of the Pacific Cup in Mexico with a 3-1 win at the Sports Palace Stadium after trailing 1-0.

The Indooroos were tipped as favourites to take the title especially as Mexico were knocked out in the semi-final the previous night.

The first half was tight with both teams waiting for their opponents' mistakes, but there were no goals.

Costa Rica did take the lead only four seconds into the second half when topscorer of the tournament Diego Roy shot from the kick-off, catching the whole Australian team off guard, and placing his shot into the roof of the net.

In the fourth minute the Australians suffered the same fate as two years ago in the competition when a goal was disallowed against the Mexicans.

They did, however, get their reward three minutes later when Erkin Osman found Steve Knight, who volleyed a spectacular shot into the roof of the net.

The crowd were behind underdogs Costa Rica, and were on their feet when Australian coach Nick Nicolopoulos was sent from the bench in the 9th minute.

With their experienced captain Robbie Stuart calling the shots, the Australians didn't falter in their

pursuit of the title.

And they could have easily clinched the elusive goal but for the acrobatic saves of Costa Rican keeper Francesco Matanoros, who was in brilliant form.

Three minutes from time the deadlock was finally broken with a quick counter-attack by Jeffrey and Knight, with the latter slipping his shot away.

A minute later, in the 18th, Australia sealed their victory when Jeffrey turned past two defenders and scored low past Matanoros.

Jeffrey had a splendid second half of the tournament, as did the other team members.

AUSTRALIA: Thurlow, Osman, Stuart, Jeffrey, Knight, Atanasovski, Carvalho, Psaroudis.

COSTA RICA: Matanoros, Valle, Jimenez, Fallon, Ponas, Castillo, Roy, Gonzalez, Marin, Reynoldo.

SCORERS: Jeffrey (2), Knight for Australia; Roy for Costa Rica.

REFEREE: Cuenca (Mexico).

Third Place Play-Off

MEXICO 2 CANADA 1

Mexico redeemed lost pride with a less than convincing win at the expense of Canada to clinch third place in the tournament.

Luis Guterrez made an intelligent run on the outside of Gerardo Vega to receive his pass and score in the far top corner in the 9th minute.

Canada's only responding shot was when young D'Arcy



Aussie skipper Robbie Stuart holds the Pacific Cup trophy.

Boulton hit a cracker against the crossbar.

And the North Americans were on the receiving end of another Guterrez special in the 13th minute, when he scored from an identical position as his earlier goal.

At that stage it seemed the Mexicans were going to exceed their low scoring rate in the tournament.

It wasn't to be. Instead, the Canadians a minute later had their answer to the situation

when Victor Montagliani unusually 'placed' his free kick under Roberto Gamboa in the Mexican goal.

The second half didn't produce any memorable moments and the match ended 2-1.

MEXICO: Gamboa, F. Vega, Guterrez, C. Hernandez, G. Hernandez, G. Vega, Lince, Jimenez, Mosqueda.

CANADA: Crouch, Iuele, Gasparac, Boulton, Bazic, Montagliani, Best, De Marco, Has.

SCORERS: Guterrez (2) for Mexico, Montagliani for Canada.

REFEREE: A. Sacchero (Australia).



Nick Nicolopoulos (centre) with the team's two Mexican "minders", Luis and Armando.



Amateurs, Juniors and Schools News

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COMMONWEALTH BANK BILL TURNER CUP



WHERE IS THE BALL? Worthy winner of the 1989 Commonwealth Bank Club Australia \$200 Star Player Award, Andrew Nobbs of Trinity College, Lismore, is challenged by Canberra High's Alex Castro with a sliding tackle.

However, Nobbs had lofted the ball out of Castro's reach in this play-off for third place in the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup competition. Bruce Morhaus of Trinity looks on.

Young Castro was one of the four other players who scored high points in the Star Player series and figured prominently in Canberra's 1-0 win.

PART FOUR

Coaching in the USA

FROM FORMER TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR
PLAYER VIC IRELAND, CURRENTLY IN
CALIFORNIA

WHAT experience the British coaches in particular did bring to Hubert Vogelsinger's camp was mainly in the form of a potpourri of drills, gridwork, zonal play etc. etc. which can wear thin after three weeks.

There was a pre-occupation with "checking-nearest/farthest man", "passing and receiving through cones", "3x5 a-side mini-games with unchallengeable wingers patrolling the lines," etc. All small groups; all instructed set responses to set situations.

No doubt there was value which should not be underestimated.

However, the stark differences in styles, when physically juxtaposed, as they were under Vogelsinger's auspices, provided some interesting insights into the dichotomy of coaching, teaching, learning and implementation of soccer ideas.

The "Drill School of Coaching," in general, does not analyse nor work to any great extent on individual skill technique.

Neither do its adherents seem to possess the perception (or is it imagination) necessary to recognise, develop and encourage unique abilities and incorporate these to the benefit of the team.

It seeks to fit players into preconceived tactical movements, set pieces and disciplined, specific, "thou shalt do" responses.

The South Americans place heavy emphasis on individual development and to a large extent succeed in their tactical coaching, which is more game realistic and fluid in practice than the British "Drill School."

The latter seem to forget that the success or failure of any coaching effort depends entirely upon player competence.

The British, unconsciously I'm sure, have adapted to the absence of great technique, by introducing tactics to compensate.

Now their coaching "Catch 22" does not even allow for it.

The Europeans are similar to the South Americans, though perhaps, with more physical emphasis; certainly with more individual and overall team discipline as objectives.

However, for them, as with the South Americans, technique comes before tactics, as it undoubtedly should.

In complete contrast to all of this was Hubert Vogelsinger's "free flow," almost "stream of consciousness" sessions.

Sometimes of improvisation, but always creative teaching of, and learning by the individual player, placing responsibility for improvement of technique squarely on the shoulders of the player.

Whereas the "Drill School of Coaching" produces organisations of functionaries who play, at best, a systematised game, at worst as "hit-men thugs," Vogelsinger's objective is aimed at producing highly skilled individuals.

His goal is to produce quality material, that, no matter how its fashioned, will always look the best.

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North Shore trendsetters

FOUR North Shore students have broken away from the traditional rugby union influence of their schools, and have been chosen for the NSW All Schools soccer team.

Peter Leslie of Barker College, and Phil Moss and Cameron Jones, both of Shore, will tour one of the world's soccer strongholds, South America, in January.

Peter Banks of Knox is also a member of the NSW side, but work commitments prevent him from touring.

The all-schools team is made up of young soccer players from State, Catholic and private schools in NSW.

Phil Moss, 18 has been playing soccer since he was four years old, but when he went to Shore his playing career almost stopped.

"I'd been playing ever since I could walk, but the headmaster at Shore would not let me play out of school," he said.

Fortunately, soccer was introduced to the school when Moss was in year 8.

Moss has played for NSW all-schools for the past three years, and at 16 became the youngest to represent the side.

Next year he hopes to break into the NSL playing for a team such as Apia.

For goalkeeper Cameron Jones, it is the first time he has been chosen for NSW all-schools.

"I was extremely happy because I saw the quality of some of the other goalkeepers," he said.

Jones, 18 of St Ives, started playing soccer when he was eight years old, and like Moss was forced to abandon the sport when he started at Shore.

He too joined a soccer team when the sport was introduced to the school.

Jones said he was looking forward to the South American tour.

"Most of all, you gain contacts and it will be a good experience," he said.

He wants to continue playing soccer now he has finished school but is not sure where he will play.

Peter Leslie, also of



Cameron Jones (front), Peter Leslie and Phil Moss (standing) — photo courtesy HORNSBY ADVOCATE.

St Ives, said he was advised to play rugby when he first went to Barker College.

Leslie has been playing for 13 years and it is the first time he has been chosen in the all-schools team.

He said the South American tour would provide many highlights, including curtain raisers to some first grade games and a week's training with a professional team.

The team will play three games in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before travelling to Santiago, Chile for further games and training.

The trio is now trying for sponsorship to help fund the \$3500 trip.

— Material by courtesy of the HORNSBY ADVOCATE

REGIONAL NEWS

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AIS STARLETS

FROM GRAHAM COOKE

ON past records at least half, possibly two thirds, of the current Australian Institute of Sport squad will go on to play the majority of their soccer at NSL level or overseas. To identify the stars of the future the AIS youngsters currently performing in the summer National Youth League will be put under the microscope.

Polonia Adelaide junior Simon Romaniuk had played just one senior game before he was selected by head coach Ron Smith for the AIS squad.

"It goes back to a match I played for South Australian Schools against the state under 16 squad," he said.

"I hadn't made the under 16s so I was pretty determined to prove a point.

"As it turned out I had a great game. Ron Smith was there and it was then I was told he was interested in me.

"The schoolboys went to Darwin for the national championships and a couple of weeks afterwards I was told I had a 99 per cent chance of making the AIS.

"The definite offer of a scholarship came just before my Year 12 examinations.

Romaniuk, 18, is now enjoying life in Canberra where his time is divided between improving his skills and studying for an economics degree at the ANU.

"The pace of the game is a lot faster here than in Adelaide but with all those good

players around me it was easy to cope. I think we did well by finishing fourth in our first season back in the National Youth League and I'm confident we can do better this time."

A sweeper or stopper — "I've always been in defence. The first spot in a team I was given was there and that's where I've stayed" — his immediate aim is to represent Australia in the 1991 World Youth Championships.

After that he will be concentrating on finishing his university degree "although I will have to decide whether to transfer or stay at the ANU.

"If the right soccer offer came locally I would have to give it serious consideration."

Romaniuk's favourite teams are Adelaide City and Liverpool — "Adelaide because they play well and Liverpool because they are winners." His favourite player is Liverpool's Alan Hansen and his long-term ambition is to be a full-time professional player.

Nursery link

MARCONI Fairfield and the Southern Districts Soccer Football Association have firmly established the much needed link between district club soccer, from nursery level to Metropolitan Representatives, Youth League, State League and finally NSL competition.

The opportunities are available for players of all ages to reach the highest level of soccer available in their district and state as well as nationally.

Fuelled by a strong conviction to provide only the best for devotees of soccer in the Liverpool Fairfield areas, Southern District SFA and the Marconi Soccer Club agreed to pool their resources at the commencement of the 1989 season, in an effort to achieve this aim.

South District provides a full range of competitions from Under 6 to All Age Premier League, including Under 12 Girls, Under 16 Girls and All Age Ladies.

The representative

teams from SDSFA and Marconi commence with Under 11 and Under 12 Metropolitan Reps which progress to Under 13, Under 14, Under 15 and Under 17 Youth League divisions 1 and 2.

The next rung on the ladder is provided by the Southern District United State League Under 19 and 1st Grade and the Marconi Fairfield Under 19 and 1st Grade NSL teams.

With the appointment of Richie Williams, accomplished coach and former Marconi player, as Director of Coaching within the co-operative agreement, the alliance is firmly pointed in the right direction.

Overseen by Berti Mariani (NSL champions coach), George Baldock (SDSFA president), and Victor Budini (Marconi Soccer committee) and in conjunction with the soon to be formed Representative Management Committee, the interests of each partner are kept firmly intact thus ensuring the traditional identity of both parties for the future.

National Youth League

South Melbourne hit lead

BY ROY HAY

IN a week of high scoring matches the big guns in the National Youth League (Southern Division) began to assert themselves. Paul Lewis of Sunshine George Cross found himself in the youth team this week and banged in four goals in Sunshine's 5-1 defeat of Melbourne City JUST.

South Melbourne Hellas White took over the leadership of the Division with a 6-0 victory over the Hellas Blue team.

Melbourne Croatia brought Geelong City's excellent start to the season to a sudden halt with a 6-1 victory at Somers Street. Altona Gate ran up five without replay at Clifton Hill.

Hus Kanderovic opened the scoring for Melbourne Croatia against Geelong City after 20 minutes when he headed home a cross by Mark Silic. Seven minutes later Josip Bacak beat the offside trap to put Croatia two-up.

City then had its best spell of the match, and just before the interval a series of testing balls into the penalty area caused panic in the home defence. From Charles Fitzpatrick's corner-kick, Michael Spasevski and Tony Bozinovski rose for the ball with the latter getting the final touch before the ball crossed the line.

In the second half, after Adam Oates had come out of his goal to block a runaway attack, City failed to get the ball clear and Mark Silic followed up to put Croatia 3-1 ahead.

Two further goals by Bacak completed his hat-trick and Silic got his second as Croatia powered away at the end. Paul Donnelly orchestrated the mid-

field for the home team with every attacking move coming through him.

Paul Lewis recovered his goal-scoring touch with four in the match between Melbourne City JUST and Sunshine George Cross. His goals came in 20, 34, 60 (from a penalty) and 73 minutes. Saso Becvinovski got JUST's consolation goal from a penalty kick after 71 minutes.

East Richmond had a dynamic first half at Caulfield, with goals by Anastasios Kalantzis after nine minutes and Hau Sung Lay after 14. Bill Kosmas made it three and it was not till the final minute that Leo Kyriakopoulos got one back for Caulfield.

The referee reports this was an easy match to cover with both sides concentrating on the ball and playing some skilful soccer.

Altona Gate was too strong for Clifton Hill scoring five in a classical display of soccer. Goran Lozanovski scored twice, Robert Trajkovski once and the others came from Saso Simovski and Pet Latomatski.

South Melbourne Hellas White ran up six goals against the Hellas Blue team, with Paul Donnelly scoring a hat-trick, Con Boutsianis adding one and the other two from a recent signing.

Preston Makedonia recorded its second win, this time 2-1 against Heidelberg United. Tony Lingurovski and Joe Markovac were on target for Preston and Sam Pappadopoulos replied for Heidelberg.

North Geelong had the bye.

Results

Melbourne Croatia (Silic 2, Bacak 3, Kanderovic) 6, Geelong City (Bozinovski) 1, Preston Makedonia (Lingurovski, Joe Markovac) 2, Heidelberg United (Pappadopoulos) 1, South Melbourne

Hellas Blue 0 South Melbourne Hellas White (Donnelly 3, Boutsianis) 6, Caulfield City (Kyriakopoulos) 1 East Richmond (Kalantzis, Sung Lay, Kosmas) 3, Melbourne City JUST (Becvinovski) 1 Sunshine George Cross (Lewis 4, Gus Bregantie) 5, Clifton Hill 0 Altona Gate (Lozanovski 2, Trajkovski, Simovski, Latomatski) 5, North Geelong v bye.

League Ladder

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SMHW	6	4	2	0	13	2	10
Geelong City	6	4	1	1	11	10	9
Altona Gate	6	4	0	1	17	5	8
Sunshine GC	5	3	1	1	14	7	7
Melb Croatia	3	3	0	0	10	2	6
East Richmond	6	3	0	3	12	10	6
Melbourne City JUST	6	2	2	2	11	12	6
Preston Makedonia	5	2	0	3	6	7	4
Heidelberg Utd	5	1	1	3	7	12	3
North Geelong	5	1	0	4	8	16	2
Caulfield City	4	0	1	3	2	7	1
Clifton Hill	2	0	0	2	0	7	0
SMHB	4	0	0	4	1	15	0



Craig Plummer (Geelong City, dark colours) leads Theo Papagiannopoulos (Clifton Hill) in the National Youth League (Southern Division) match, which City won 2-0. Photo: NICOLE BRENNAN, Geelong Advertiser

Rampant Wolves savage cellar-dwellers Marconi

BY ANDY CURTIS

WOLLONGONG v MARCONI 2-0

IN last weekend's round of the NSL Youth League North, Wollongong stamped themselves as the team to beat after another fine win — this time over Marconi.

Wollongong were far the better team. In the first half, both teams had chances of scoring but good defence in most situations saved the day.

In the second half, however, Wollongong began to dominate.

The Marconi-defence

were at times frustrated and in the 49th Petkovic, for Wollongong, was awarded a penalty when Suzor bundled him off the ball in the penalty area.

Fullback McEvoy converted and the Wolves went ahead. They went further ahead in the 59th minute after a Marconi defensive mix-up saw Krishna collect the ball on the right side of the penalty area, beat a defender and slot the ball past the keeper.

WOLLONGONG: Atsas, McEvoy, Baggot, Harrison, Vidal, Kotamidis, Krishna, (Damico), Villella (Placentin), Lardis, Petkovic, Robards. MARCONI: Schwarzer.

Caluccio, Surjan, Mammona, Charlwood, Suzor, Messina (Labbozzetta), Surjan, Cam. Licata (Lovan), Mendez.

BLACKTOWN v MELITA EAGLES 4-1

Blacktown completely dominated proceedings.

The game opened well with both teams displaying enterprising attacking runs. It wasn't long, though, before Blacktown started to stamp their authority.

In the 28th minute, from a free kick outside the Melita area, Odzakovic chipped the Melita defensive wall, curling the ball into the left corner to leave the keeper no chance of saving.

Then in the 36th minute, after a good build-up from centre field, Odzakovic beat one defender and slipped a neat pass to Suman in the penalty, who fired the ball into the top of the net, leaving a half time score of 2-0.

It wasn't until the 77th minute, after some ordinary early second half play, that Blacktown scored their third when Suman on the turn, in the Melita penalty area, shot the ball across the face of the goal, getting a favourable deflection off the post into the net.

Then, in the 83rd minute, replacement McCardle put Blacktown 4-0 up after he nodded in a good cross from Odzakovic.

Right on full-time Melita scored a consolation goal when Parison pounced on a Blacktown defensive mix-up and pushed the ball past the keeper.

BLACKTOWN: Mautone, Abi-Arrange, Langan, Saulana, Comerford, Gomez, Shipley, Murphy, Odzakovic, Suman, Rogers.

MELITA: Marco, Souris, Novakmate, Hall, Curmi, Pelli, Pentos, Arvena, Parison, Cabral, Tapia.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC v AIS 1-2

The AIS had their best scoring chance of

the first half on the stroke of half-time when Lorenzo Kindtner's swerving 35-metre free kick hit the bar with George Sorras heading the rebound over.

The Institute took the lead soon after the break through Chris Trajanovski, who capitalised on a mix-up in the Olympic penalty area to push past Manuel Refenes in the Olympic goal in the 46th minute.

Olympic struck back in the 62nd minute when P. Cardozo intercepted a short back pass from Tony Pangallo to shoot past Peter Gunning. The Institute winner came in the 78th minute when Trajanovski scored his second, heading in a fine cross from right back Tony Pangallo.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Refenes, Paleologous, Serratore, Badrov, Koch, Hristodoulou, Triantafyllou (Papageorgiou), Baltatzis, Cardozo, Bennett, Refenes.

AIIS: Gunning, Stanton, Koliba, Romaniuk, Seven, Pangallo, Sorras, Kindtner, Trajanovski, Block, Eldridge.

In the only National Youth League Cup match played at the weekend, APIA Leichhardt were beaten 2-1 by St George.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
APIA Leichhardt	4	3	1	0	5	17	
St George	3	2	1	0	5	25	
Wollongong City	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
AIIS	3	2	0	1	9	34	
Sydney Olympic	4	2	0	2	4	34	
Blacktown City	4	1	1	2	5	53	
Melita Eagles	3	1	0	2	2	52	
Marconi	4	0	1	3	1	51	
Sydney Croatia	3	0	1	2	3	11	

ACT INDOOR

THE ACT Indoor Soccer Association's Open State Titles held at the Australian Institute of Sport were a huge success.

The event, which included 58 teams in 10 competitions ranging from 11-year-old boys to Open Men and Open Women occupied five courts for 14 hours each.

Ainslie Concrete Dribblers' attempt to take the Open Men's title for the third consecutive year came to grief in the dying seconds of a very exciting final against CCAE rivals and last year's runners-up, White Eagles.

The Open Women's competition saw the top two teams from the CCAE contest the final with the experience of the Olympic side telling in the end over the young Belconnen Sportscentre girls.

The goals in Olympic's 4-2 win came from Katrina Alexander and Sascha Wainwright with two each while Joanne Connor and Sally McFadzean replied for Belconnen Sportscentre.

The U20 final was taken out by International from CCAE's First Division, who beat the leaders of the Second Division at Chisholm, the Tornadoses, 4-1 thanks to goals from Pat Consentini, Paul Macor, Seven Hebda and Daniel Park. Andrew Wallace replied for Tornadoses.

Europe retained their title in the 16 Boys, beating Belconnen rivals, the Eagles, 3-1 in the final.

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If wishing to enrol for a trial; please phone 629 1800 for appointment.

DAVID LEE
NSW DIRECTOR OF COACHING

Croatia downs Kiwis

SYDNEY CROATIA ran into a whole barrel full of trouble when they staged an exhibition game against Auckland club, Mt Wellington, last Thursday night.

The trial was arranged at short notice when Mt Wellington took a holiday trip to Sydney as part of their prize for winning their National League Premier Series (Top Five) competition.

When the whiff of the game was in the wind

the Quit NSL ordered it to be called off.

A Sydney Croatia official said: "In no sense was it an official game."

"It was a training run, and we were glad to host the premier New Zealand team."

Croatia won 3-2, but Mt Wellington striker Noel Barkley missed an open goal and had a last-minute penalty saved.

The Kiwis came without four leading players, including former Sydney Olympic star Ricki Herbert.

On the night midfielder Terry Torrens showed out particularly well.

It has been said that the top three New Zealand clubs would be competitive in the Australian NSL.

With the four leading players missing, it was impossible to make a definitive judgment, but certainly a combined Auckland team would be an embellishment to the NSL.

The Mt Wellington side pushed the ball rather well around the back and midfield, but

the long balls strayed from their mark only too often.

The New Zealanders were really impressed with the facilities at Edensor Park, and equally nonplussed at how their minibus managed to find the ground after a trip from Coogee.

SYDNEY CROATIA 3 (S. Williams 2, D Seal), MT WELLINGTON 2 (R. Miranda, N. Barkley).

— KEITH GILMOUR

Irishmen revel in success

BY MIKE TICHER

OF all the celebration parties after the final games in the World Cup qualifying groups, few would have been as unrestrained or exuberant as that at the Ta Q'ali Stadium in Malta, where the Republic of Ireland clinched a place in the finals for the first time ever with a 2-0 victory.

Not for them the jittery climax endured by Scotland, or the dour efficiency of England's passage. Ireland's progress, in a tough group, was confident and consistent.



JACK CHARLTON

They will go to Italy brimful of confidence, with high hopes of doing well, but most of all, determined to have a good time.

After their excellent performance in the European championships in 1988, no one will underestimate the Irish but nevertheless, the pressure on them to succeed will be nothing compared to the major European soccer powers.

Ireland's recent soccer boom has some curious origins.

The domestic game remains feeble, with most games attracting crowds below those in the NSL.

Many fans in Dublin prefer to catch the ferry every weekend to go to watch Liverpool, Everton or Manchester United.

Such is the low status of the Irish game that leading club Shamrock Rovers, double winners for three successive seasons in the mid-eighties, were evicted from their home ground at Milltown by the owners in 1987, despite prolonged protests and a boycott by fans.

What interest there is in the local league has largely been supplied by the current champions, Derry City. Derry, although in Northern Ireland, succeeded in gaining admission to the Republic's League in 1986 after 14 years away from top-class competition.

The predominantly Catholic club was suspended from the North's own league in the early 70s after the burning of an opposing team's bus, for fear of more sectarian violence spilling over from the province's troubles into football.

Since their move south, however, City have flourished, winning the League last season and attracting regular crowds of 10,000 and more, figures which dwarf those of even the Republic's best supported teams.

With this exception, Ireland's soccer clubs have failed to overcome the age-old problems of poor organisation, lack of money and the powerful rival attractions of Gaelic football (similar to VFL), hurling and English soccer.

Perhaps not surprisingly, in the light of this, the national team's incredible resurgence also has its roots outside the Republic.

Manager Jack Charlton, hero of England's 1966 World Cup win,

has put together a formidable team, using many players whose familial connections to Ireland are tenuous to say the least.

Some have even been brought to Dublin for the first time to play in Ireland's green shirts.

Accents around the dressing room range from Liverpool (John Aldridge) to Glasgow (Ray Houghton), Wales (Kevin Sheedy) and London (Tony Cascarino).

However, the presence of the imports disturbs the Irish supporters not one bit.

No Irish stadium of sufficient size has floodlights acceptable for international fixtures.

Given the enormous contribution of Irish players to the English League over the years, perhaps it's only fair that the Irish should see something in return.

The excitement and enthusiasm generated by Big Jack and his team will be transferred in bulk quantities to Italy in June.

There will be no fears of crowd trouble from the huge Irish support and it is safe to predict that there will be few more popular teams to follow for the journalists and TV crews covering the tournament.

For the Irish, the World Cup is still a big adventure and the fear and cynicism which so often infect the more established football countries is still largely absent from their attitude.

Which is not to say they will be a soft touch.

Opposing teams would be foolish to interpret the relaxed outlook of the Irish camp as a sign of slapdash preparation or a lack of professionalism, as England, the Soviet Union and Holland all discovered in Germany in 1988.

Players of the quality of Houghton, Whelan, Aldridge and McGrath demand respect, especially when they can be moulded into a well-organised unit as Charlton has succeeded in doing.

The only disappointment is that qualification has almost certainly come just too late for veterans such as Brady, Stapleton and O'Leary who have been mainstays of the team for so long.

Ireland's football is more disciplined than flamboyant but they have the crucial quality of team spirit as an inspiration, just as Northern Ireland did when they found glory in Spain in 1982.

They may not win the World Cup but they will certainly be one of the best reasons for watching it.



Hibernians' Scottish star Paul Kane in full flight.

Police Compo

SOUTH Yorkshire police have made a surprise compensation offer of \$100 million to victims of last April's Hillsborough tragedy.

It's thought to be the first time in Britain a police force has agreed to pay compensation for a public disaster.

South Yorkshire Chief Constable Peter Wright, whose officers were in charge at the Sheffield Wednesday ground at the time, says in no way is the pay-out an admission of liability.

Chirpy "Budgie"

IT didn't take John Burridge long to impose his extrovert character on the Newcastle dressing room.

Within days of his arrival at Tyneside from Southampton he had taken over the coaching of his fellow 'keepers and got a groundsman to set up a punchball at the training ground.

But, surprisingly, Budgie hasn't always been so out-going. "I was unable to handle the pressure as a kid," he says. "I used to freeze when I went to big grounds."



Liverpool striker Peter Beardsley gets the foot-running on Colin Hendry during Manchester City's recent 4-1 defeat.

World Cup seeds all draw well

BY LOU GAUTIER

LUCK smiled on most of the favourites when the 1990 World Cup draw was made last Saturday.

The gala draw at Rome's Sports Palace was watched live by a world-wide audience of some 500 million people, including for the first time Australia, courtesy of SBS Television, which will, of course, telecast all the 52 games in Italy next year.



Procedures for the draw had been designed to keep the four South American teams from meeting in the first round, but apart from this all other pairings went strictly according to the luck of the draw, which was particularly kind to hosts Italy.

The Italians are drawn with Austria, their first match opponents, Czechoslovakia and the USA in Group A.

That's the group

The opening game of the World Cup, in Milan, sees them pitted against Cameroun, no easy beats, then they have to contend with the Soviet Union and Romania.

Maradona will need all the support from the Naples crowd he can muster in an intriguing group from which Argentina and the Soviet Union should qualify, with Romania a good bet for one of the best third placed qualifiers — but watch out for Cameroun's black magic.

Brazil should have little trouble emerging unscathed from Group 3 where Scotland and Sweden will fight it out for the second berth.

This is Scotland's big chance to finally advance past the preliminary round in the finals, but the no-nonsense Swedes must be slightly favoured to nose the Scots out at this stage.

Costa Rica will be looking to avoid embarrassing defeats at the feet of all their opponents.

Group D starts with a sensational West



The United Arab Emirates' Ali Thanijuma in action against Saudi Arabia in the Asian qualifiers. Italia '90 will be much tougher.

Colombia are the dark horses and Mario Zagalo's United Arab Emirates the rank outsiders.

The Germans and Yugoslavs look so superior that Colombia will find it very tough to sneak into the next round as one of the

gium, Uruguay and Spain a certainty.

But don't overlook South Korea.

This group is no tougher than the one they inherited in Mexico in 1986 and they could give this trio a big shake.

I fancy Uruguay and Spain to finish 1 and 2, with Belgium a good bet for a second phase berth as well.

The fact that England and Holland have been drawn together in the Cagliari-Palermo group proves the draw was not doctored.

Ironically, as the Republic of Ireland have drawn the same group, we find these three teams in the one group as they were in last year's European championships in West Germany.

This group could prove a logistical nightmare for the organisers, what with at least 20,000

Dutch fans, 15,000 Englishmen and some 10,000 Irishmen all converging on the islands of Sardinia and Sicily.

And Egypt isn't all that far away either...



The Teams

GROUP A

- 1 ITALY
- 2 AUSTRIA
- 3 USA
- 4 CZECH

GROUP B

- 5 ARGENTINA
- 6 CAMEROUN
- 7 SOVIET UNION
- 8 ROMANIA

GROUP C

- 9 BRAZIL
- 10 SWEDEN
- 11 COSTA RICA
- 12 SCOTLAND

GROUP D

- 13 WEST GERMANY
- 14 YUGOSLAVIA
- 15 UTD ARAB EMIRATES
- 16 COLOMBIA

GROUP E

- 17 BELGIUM
- 18 SOUTH KOREA
- 19 URUGUAY
- 20 SPAIN

GROUP F

- 21 ENGLAND
- 22 REP IRELAND
- 23 HOLLAND
- 24 EGYPT

First Phase

June 8: ARG v CAMEROUN — Milan.

June 9: ITALY v AUSTRIA — Rome.
USSR v ROMANIA — Bari.
UAE v COLOMBIA — Bologna.

June 10: USA v CZECH — Florence.
BRAZIL v SWEDEN — Turin.
W GERMANY v YUGOS — Milan.

June 11: COSTA R v SCOT — Genoa.
ENGLAND v REP IRELAND — Cagliari.

June 12: BELG v S KOREA — Verona.
HOLLAND v EGYPT — Palermo.

June 13: ARGENTINA v USSR — Naples.
URUGUAY v SPAIN — Udine.

June 14: ITALY v USA — Rome.
CAMEROUN v ROMANIA — Bari.
YUGOS v COLOMBIA — Bologna.

June 15: AUSTRIA v CZECH — Florence.
WEST GERMANY v UAE — Milan.

June 16: BRAZIL v COSTA R — Turin.
SWEDEN v SCOTLAND — Genoa.

June 17: BELG v URUGUAY — Verona.
SOUTH KOREA v SPAIN — Udine.
REP IRELAND v EGYPT — Palermo.
ENGLAND v HOLLAND — Cagliari.

June 18: ARG v ROMANIA — Naples.
CAMEROUN v USSR — Bari.

June 19: ITALY v CZECH — Rome.
AUSTRIA v USA — Florence.
WEST GER v COLOMBIA — Milan.
YUGOSLAVIA v UAE — Bologna.

June 20: BRAZIL v SCOTLAND — Turin.
SWEDEN v COSTA RICA — Genoa.

June 21: BELGIUM v SPAIN — Verona.
SOUTH KOREA v URUGUAY — Udine.
ENGLAND v EGYPT — Cagliari.
REP IRELAND v HOLLAND — Palermo.

Second Phase

June 23: B1 v A3 C3 D3 (Match 37) — Naples
A2 v C2 (Match 38) — Bari.

June 24: C1 v A3 B3 F3 (Match 39) — Turin
D1 v B3 E3 F3 (Match 40) — Milan

June 25: A1 v C3 D3 E3 (Match 42) — Rome
F2 v B2 (Match 41) — Genoa

June 26: F1 v E2 (Match 44) — Bologna
E1 v D2 (Match 43) — Verona

Quarter-Finals

June 30: W41 v W42 (Match 46) — Rome
W39 v W43 (Match 45) — Florence

July 1: W37 v W44 (Match 48) — Naples
W38 v W40 (Match 47) — Milan

Semi-Finals

July 3: W45 v W46 (Match 49) — Naples
July 4: W47 v W48 (Match 50) — Turin

3rd Place Play-Off

July 7: L49 v L50 — Bari

Final

July 8: W49 v W50 — Rome



Star South Korean striker Kim Joo-Sung, with the trophy he won as the best player in the Asian qualifiers. He is set to shine in Verona and Udine.

Socceroo chief Frank Arok said he would have liked to be included in had Australia qualified.

Italy are certain to breeze into the second phase, with Austrians and Czechs engaged in a bruising battle for the second spot.

The USA will be hard pressed to even salvage a point but their scores will play an important part in the final placings.

Remember that not only the first two in each of the six groups qualify for the second phase, but also the best four third place finishers.

Argentina received no favours in Group B.



Germany v Yugoslavia.

A draw in the opening game would almost certainly put both countries through to the next round.

best third placed countries.

Group E is the most balanced of the six groups, with a mighty three-way tussle between seeded Bel-

FIFA bans Chile!

CHILE have been banned from the 1994 World Cup and captain Roberto Rojas and the former president of the Chilean Association and the national team doctor have been suspended for life.

The drastic punishment follows the tumultuous World Cup qualifier in Rio on September 3 when the Chileans walked off the Maracana pitch after a flare was thrown on the field.

FIFA and Chilean investigations concluded Rojas had faked injury, that he was not hit by the

flare, and that the team doctor and Association president were accomplices in the deception.

Meanwhile, Nigeria have been suspended from all youth international competitions for two years and have been stripped of the right to stage the 1991 Youth World Cup finals after FIFA ruled they had fielded over-age players in the World Cup finals in Saudi Arabia earlier this year.

Portugal, who had been awarded the 1993 finals, are likely to fill in for Nigeria and Australia, granted the 1995 finals, will organise the event two years earlier.

Koeman slots in

BY GEORGE VAN ZANDEN

PSV Eindhoven offered Ronald Koeman a lot of money earlier this year to stay in Holland rather than accept a millionaire's life in Spain.

The blond central defender says: "PSV wanted me to stay. They made me a very good offer, but I was keen to try something different and play in a better championship, in packed stadia.

"I had two years remaining on my contract with PSV but I think it was no secret that not only Barcelona but also Real Madrid, Juventus, Napoli, Roma and Milan were interested in signing me.

"I chose Barcelona not just for financial reasons. I have been a great admirer of Johan Cruyff and he, of course, is the coach of Barcelona."

Koeman is 26 years old — he was born on March 21, 1963.

He has an old head on young shoulders — and a four-year contract worth around \$1.5 million a year.

Football runs in the blood of the Koemans.



Ronald's brother, Erwin, starred along side him in Holland's European title line-up.

The brothers achieved a unique double in 1988 when Ronald won the European Champions' Cup

with PSV against Benfica and Erwin helped Belgian club Mechelen land the Cup-Winners Cup.

Their father was a player and then manager of FC Gronigen.

Dad is now their business manager as well.

At first few people believed in the Koeman/Rygaard partnership in the Dutch national team.

Both players were considered too attack-minded and neither was a strict marker in the modern style, yet they dovetailed superbly.

When Koeman surged forward, the elegant Rygaard stayed back; when Rygaard glided up into midfield, Koeman sat in at the back to stop any breakaways with his rocklike tackles.

The most criticised partnership became a winner.

Cruyff believes Koeman will adjust tactically into central defence from midfield as he did while playing for Ajax Amsterdam despite some initial criticism about his style from the Catalan press.



It's a samba sandwich as Brazil's Mazinho and Andre Cruz thwart Carnevale when Brazil beat Italy 1-0 in Bologna last month.

Wilkins in, Francis out!

FORMER England captain Ray Wilkins signed for Queen's Park Rangers less than 24 hours after the English First Division club dismissed manager Trevor Francis, who had persuaded Wilkins to return to London.



Ray Wilkins

His signing, following the expiry of his two-year contract at Glasgow Rangers, was confirmed by Rangers coach Don Howe, a leading candidate to succeed Francis.

The 32-year-old Wilkins, who began his career with Chelsea, moved to the continent in May 1984 when he joined AC Milan from Manchester United.

He spent three seasons in Italy before joining top French club Paris St-Germain.

Three English soccer club managers were charged with bringing the game into disrepute as soccer officials continued a disciplinary clampdown.

The Football Association charged Everton manager Colin Harvey and Fourth Division bosses John Bird of York and Ray McHale of Scarborough after heated incidents at recent matches.

AC Milan's Super Cup

AC Milan beat Barcelona 1-0 last Thursday with a goal from Alberigo Evani to win the 1989 European Super Cup.

The first match — in Barcelona — was drawn 1-1.

TOUGH SWISS

TWO more players with the Swiss First Division club Wettingen are to be punished following an ugly attack on a referee at the end of a league game in October.

Four players have already been suspended and fined and now the Swiss Football Association is to take disciplinary action against Roland Hausermann and Jorg Steil after television pictures showed them up as also being involved in the rumpus.

The referee was attacked after disallowing an equalising goal against Sion in October because he blew the final whistle as the ball was on its way into the net.

Two players punished so far had their suspensions increased. Rento Baumgartner is now banned for 10 months, instead of seven, and Martin Frei for eight months, instead of six.

A one-year ban on Alex Germann and four months for Roger Kundert were confirmed.

Brian Laudrup, who now plays in West Germany, was voted Danish Player of the Year.

Napoli routed in UEFA Cup

BY LOU GAUTIER

HOLDERS Napoli were uncereemoniously bundled out of the UEFA Cup when they were thrashed 5-1 by Werder Bremen last Wednesday after also losing 3-2 at home.

Karl-Heinz Riedle scored in the 25th and 62nd minutes, Wynton Rufer in the 55th, Gunnar Sauer in the 89th and Dieter Eilts in the 90th, and Napoli's lone scorer, in the 70th minute, was Careca.

Italy's Fiorentina and Juventus, however, made it to the quarter-finals by eliminating Dynamo Kiev and Karlsruher respectively.

Belgium will also have two representatives in the quarter-finals, FC Liege and Antwerp eliminating

Rapid Vienna and last season's beaten finalists, VfB Stuttgart, respectively.

Auxerre, of France, qualified at Olympiakos' expense on the away goals rule by drawing 0-0 at home after the first leg in Piraeus ended 1-1.

FC Koln created a mild surprise by reversing a 2-0 defeat in Belgrade into a 3-0 home win to knock out Red Star and Hamburg SV eliminated Porto on away goals.

The results: Antwerp 1 Stuttgart 1, Auxerre 0 Olympiakos 0, Dynamo Kiev 0 Fiorentina 0, Karlsruher 0 Juventus 1, FC Liege 3 Rapid Vienna 1, FC Koln 3 Red Star Belgrade 0, Werder Bremen 5 Napoli 1, Porto 2 Hamburg 1.

The draw for the quarter-finals of the three European Cups will be made in Zurich on December 15.



BY LOU GAUTIER

- Kuwait's national team has been invited to take part in exhibition matches in Iran.
- This is the draw for the quarter-finals of the West German Cup: VfB Stuttgart v Werder Bremen, Kaiserslautern v Fortuna Dusseldorf, Kickers Offenbach v Duisburg, Eintracht Brunswick v Osnabruck.
- Lothar Matthaus hopes to be playing again before the end of the year. The Inter Milan midfielder has undergone ankle ligaments surgery.
- Brazilian ace Romario is said to have patched up his differences with PSV Eindhoven. Romario, the club's top scorer, had complained that his team-mates shunned him and criticised him behind his back. Coach Guus Hiddink said that Romario's lack of Dutch had led to "misunderstandings".
- PSV's Czechoslovak defender Josef Chovanec has undergone exploratory operation on his knee. The operation was put back to allow Chovanec to play in his country's World Cup qualifier against Portugal. The 0-0 draw in Lisbon put the Czechs through to the finals.
- Defender Miguel Chendo, a 28-year-old Spanish international, in his seventh season at Real Madrid, has signed a new five-year contract.

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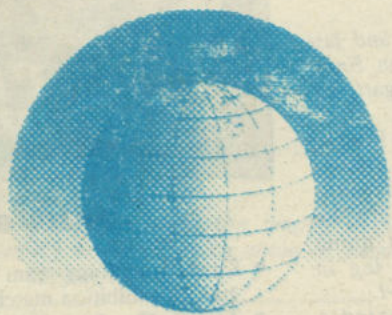
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